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Death.

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Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen :

The title of my paper to-night does not suggest an excess of merriment to the average man ; however, it is a subject we are all very much interested in.

I do not propose to give a sermon on the moral side of the question, which, however, would be a comparatively easy task, but to enunciate a few facts concerning that last act which all must perform before they leave this terrestrial sphere.

In order to understand death properly, we must understand life. Now it may not seem an essential part of a dentist's education to understand all forms of death, and I do not know that it is ; but it certainly behooves us to understand those forms with which we have to deal, and to be able in a scientific way, and when possible, to prevent any such catastrophe in our office.

Well, to return to our subject of life, which, by the way, is something that we all understand and which no one understands.

Life is not any tangible thing, and therefore we cannot place or replace it at will, but it is, as the American courts in several States said of electricity, "Something which is nothing." It seems to be beyond and almost independent of the body. Everything in nature seems to have a certain kind of life in it, the vegetable as well as the animal kingdom ; but the life in both is very similar and depends apparently upon the particles, or rather the cell-life of the particles,