

lawyer, physician, or dentist who knows much about his professional duties and nothing beyond. The educated man is gauged by his generality of knowledge, the learned professions are conspicuous in the breadth of knowledge of their members. If we can place greater facilities for the acquirement of increased education among the members of the profession, it is our duty to do so, and just as we should like to see, and as we believe our profession ought rightly be considered, let us place our students, the profession to be, in surroundings mostly conducive to such a condition; otherwise with no effort towards such improvement we can expect none.

Outside the educational element, I regret to note the utter incapability of many of our profession to perform either to the credit of themselves or professionalism, the duties necessarily devolving upon them, from a moral standpoint. I will only make a passing reference to this; not that I wish to minimize its importance, but because its truth is already fully impressed upon us. It needs little consideration to convince us what lowers the individual dentist in the estimation of the people redounds to the detriment of the profession as a whole, it cannot help but do so. If we wish our profession to rise in respect, we must ourselves be worthy of respect, and by no means the least element to be considered toward that end is one of prompt capability at all times to perform our professional duties, and the dentist is unworthy of professional standing who is voluntarily responsible for such a condition as debars him from doing so.

And now lastly, and with due appreciation of its importance, I refer to our social attitude toward our patients and the world. Covering a multitude of defects a thoroughly sociable disposition has won for many a professional man a lucrative practice, a kind, sympathetic nature prompting the operator in the manipulation of his dental and surgical instruments is only second in importance to the highest skill. The gruff, unfeeling dentist, regardless of greater experience, or supposed superior knowledge must sooner or later become humanized or retire. Our sphere will be broadened and the profession elevated when we get from our ranks this element of barbarism. The thorough performance of our duties invariably necessitates suffering; the operator who unnaturally increases it without reason, is not only unworthy the confidence of his patients alone, but forfeits all right to social relations with his fellow-beings. The professional cloak has long permitted liberties which among the laity would righteously be condemned; the unlicensed infliction of pain is contemptible, and when coming from a presumably educated, so-called benefactor of the human race, is little short of criminal.

Beyond our attitude toward our patients and maintaining with