

something to fill its place, should be made a prominent feature in reading and studying dental literature. By its use, the reader may keep year after year a list of those articles to which he may wish to refer at any time, and if he subsequently drifts into a specialty, and becomes interested in any one line of work, he will find in his book on the one page a list of those articles bearing on his specialty, with the date of publication and the name of the journal containing them. Without a title book of this kind, it is necessary to look over the entire index of every journal in the library in order to examine the literature of any one subject. This indexed title book should be in the hands of every reader of dental literature, young or old. Every dentist can select such a one as seems best adapted to his needs. Probably a small one that can be slipped into the pocket, and thus readily carried between the office and the residence, will be the most convenient to the majority, but an extensive reader could so enlarge the scope of the work as to result in a complete index of the periodical literature of the profession. Such a record kept for several years would eventually prove a most valuable work of reference and save the reader a great amount of time.

In addition to the reading done during his office hours, the young practitioner should religiously set aside certain evenings in the week for professional reading and study. At these times he can pursue a certain line of thought without fear of being disturbed, as he often must be in his office, and the concentration of mind possible in the quiet hours of the evening impresses the subject matter upon him to a degree not approached under other circumstances. While reading, whether at the office or the house, careful note should be made of every word whose meaning is not well understood, and the dictionary should be appealed to in every instance, so that the reader becomes familiar with the technical terms used by writers upon dental subjects. As practice increases, and the time is more fully occupied in the office, it becomes necessary to do less and less reading during the day, and eventually the time comes when all reading at the office must be abandoned, and the journals carried home for perusal. This need not necessarily result in extending the number of evenings to be employed in this work, for by this time the practitioner is presumably in a position to discriminate somewhat in his reading. It has just been stated that the recent graduate should read carefully every article appearing in his journals, to the end that he may keep himself occupied and gain a familiarity with the various writers and their theories, but as this familiarity is gained it will impress the discerning and experienced reader that there is much appearing in our periodicals that does not call for verbatim examination on the part of the advanced practitioner. He will soon learn to select those articles which merit his careful attention, and to dismiss the