

ory—who saw in the future a great profession. They were ambitious for its early christening, and with zeal set about the work of preparation. But there were others mean enough to try to *mechanize* the calling, and lock up the avenues to knowledge. The former class worked steadfastly and unitedly, understanding their relation to each other, and their duties to themselves and the world, without a written code, and took high rank with men of letters, or of the arts and sciences; while the latter class, in their rivalry, seemed bent on each other's destruction. These two classes are still at work, though from various causes they are brought more intimately into contact, and must assimilate. But this cannot be by bringing the better class down to the practices or the level of the bickering charlatan, but by elevating all to the recognized standard of professional men, working for a common good. This can only be accomplished by associated action under sound and wholesome rules and regulations. Among these, a standard code of ethics is a necessity; and the moral life and professional character of every member depends much upon his living up to this code.

Our first duty then to ourselves, on becoming dentists, is proper qualification to discharge the duties that must devolve upon us as such. This cannot be accomplished without great personal effort and expense of time and money. The more intelligent public, especially in large towns, are getting to be pretty good judges of merit in dentistry; and understand full well that avenues of knowledge are open and well supplied with the means of teaching; and that even a prodigy cannot reach the goal of even mediocrity through the by ways. They understand, too, that dentistry is not a *trick* at the control of the wand of the magician, nor a *trade* to be learned at sight; but a *power* to deal with living tissue, that can be acquired only by time, study and practice. He who aims to climb up some other way will find the door of public favor shut against him, and that he is little better than the foolish virgins without oil in their lamps. Earlier in the history of dentistry these avenues were not open, and established system unknown. There were no dental colleges, no dental associations, few dental books, or little periodical dental literature; so that there was some excuse for men plodding along as best they could. But a few brief years have wrought a great change; private tuition, dental colleges and standard text books are now open to all; and beyond these, dental associations are the next best means of obtaining correct knowledge. Here we talk of practical points and