

3. The subsequent effect upon the patient's health.
4. The pecuniary loss to the patient.

Where a patient dies in consequence of injuries from negligence or lack of skill, the amount of damages is not to exceed that which the patient could, if living, earn in three years.

Dentists are in some cases summoned as expert witnesses. Under this heading they are allowed extra fees. A dentist is supposed to keep secret the transactions between himself and his patients. In criminal cases the dentist gives the facts of the case in court without breach of honor. The expert witness is allowed to refer to his memoranda, which need not be in his own handwriting, but may not refer to text-books. He tells what he believes, the ordinary witness what he knows. He should avoid technicalities, making everything clear, and should never express an opinion on any subject with which he is not perfectly familiar or he may get slightly mixed.

In Canada a patient is not liable to pay for a piece of work costing over \$40.00 if there is no written agreement, part payment or exchange of some article in lieu of cash. A dentist cannot be compelled to render service to a patient when requested, but when once he has taken charge of a case he must continue his services until the case is completed or he is dismissed. A dentist has a right to charge for time lost by an unfilled appointment. The circumstances of the case and the evidence will influence the decision. He also has the right to retain a set of teeth made by him as security for reasonable charges. This right is waived by parting with them or agreeing to give credit for them. Legally no limit is placed upon dentists' fees. They regulate themselves according to the reputation of the operator, the difficulties of the case, and the circumstances in general.

I have above endeavored to give a *résumé* of the law governing us in the practice of our profession. Of necessity much was omitted, but the whole of the subject requires a paper which would necessitate an entire day's reading. I trust that I have presented the subject in a manner that some one may have been able to grasp a few heretofore unknown facts.

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### SUITABLE RECREATIONS FOR DENTISTS.

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It will not be the object of this paper to go very deeply into the scientific aspect of this subject, but to bring before the convention and the members of the profession at large a few plain facts with regard to the subject of recreation, and the vital importance of properly disposing of our spare time or "off hours" from the toils