

Now, are we doing our duties as teachers? Are we properly instructing those who seek our advice and assistance? Are we as dentists educators *par excellence* of the people? I fear we have not always fully measured our influence in the community. How many of us clearly realize that good or bad dentistry exerts a corresponding influence on the morals of our patrons? Some profound philosopher has drawn a comparison between the benefits derived from friction matches and Sabbath Schools, somewhat in favor of the matches, on account of the many annoyances and trials of temper which are saved in the kindling of fires and a consequent saving in the use of large and wicked expletives. Doubtless a similar claim might be made for good, faithful dental work, as perhaps nothing is responsible for more sins of this nature than painful teeth and bad fitting dentures.

It is my sincere belief that the people can and should be assisted and educated in the natural laws of dentistry by professional advice on all proper occasions, both in and out of the office. Especially should we endeavor to instruct parents regarding the development and care of children's teeth. *Such* information will rapidly spread, going from one person to another, until at length we have a people well informed in this regard—an intelligent community who comprehend both the value of good natural dentitions and the proper care of them. They should also understand the necessity of skilful and practical dentistry, and learn to look upon the dentist as a faithful and reliable guide. People usually gauge their opinions of us by the satisfaction which our professional service gives, and they are largely influenced, also, by the impressions which neatness of person, bright, well-kept offices and our moral characters as well, may produce.

Are we capable of meeting these three requirements, and satisfactorily passing under the scrutinizing eye of an exacting and criticising public? Deficiency in any one of them tends to limit the circumference of our field of action and accordingly our influence for good. Are we as a profession duly impressed with the importance of thoroughness and excellence in our work? Have we as sharp an eye to durability as the Irishman who built a wall three feet high and four feet wide in order that, as he declared, if it chanced to be blown over it would then be higher than it was before?

Many practitioners strive to found a reputation from the durability of their work, and doubtless it forms an excellent foundation, but it is only a foundation, the other two requisites mentioned being essential to a complete structure. Refined and sensitive people cannot be expected to willingly patronize a professional man who is untidy and unattractive in person, and whose office is more suggestive of a blacksmith shop than of civilized apartments.