

to marriage and other matters of vital interest to every man. It will tend to remove some wrong impressions of the relations of the sexes, and contribute much to the happiness of homes and the best interests of society.

The title of the third work denotes its purport.

SELECTED ARTICLES.

ARTISTIC OR EXPRESSIONAL DENTISTRY.

BY J. T. CODMAN, BOSTON, MASS.

Read before the Massachusetts Dental Society.

The term "expressional," applied to dentistry, is new; yet I have found no name which better serves my idea of what is intended to be conveyed by it, viz., the preservation of the expression of the features after the loss of teeth, or the restoration of the normal expression or a better one on the insertion of artificial teeth.

That the *general* mode of inserting substitutes for the natural teeth does not restore or preserve the best expression of the faces of our patients, scarcely admits of an argument. That there are dentists who make an exception to this rule is happily true, and that great general progress has been made in the past ten years toward that desirable end is also true; but that better results are attainable is certain. Doubtless, if dentists understood more of the philosophy of expression, they could attain pleasant results where they have made many failures.

That the extracted teeth are, to a considerable extent, safe guides for the form, colour, size, and shape of the new set is true; yet many cases present themselves where the arch has been overcrowded, and where the insertion of a full artificial set would be impossible without distending the lips and making a bad expression. In such cases it were better to omit some of the teeth, lessening the number, and insert teeth of nearly the natural size.

Among the prominent failures in the expression of the sets of the present day is that of,—1st. Colour—by which they are often detected at once. 2nd. Length—being often too long, and sometimes too short. 3rd. Size of the teeth—often too large, and often, of late, too small. 4th. Deficiency of form of each individual tooth, or what is called "want of character," from lack of curved lines. 5th. Want of prominence and