

judgment. I have in my heart of hearts the most abounding charity for the man who makes mistakes, particularly if he be a young man just starting out on his professional career. I care not what the nature of the mistake may be, so long as it has been made after an honest, painstaking attempt to do right. I would that it were in my power to place my arm around every beginner who stumbles and gropes his way along the rough places in his early practice, and help to encourage him during his failures. I could do this cheerfully for the humblest young man who ever entered the dental ranks, but the moment I found him stooping to practise deception upon his patients I should want no more of him, professionally or personally.

But all of this you have doubtless been taught in one way or another during your college course, and I merely wish to emphasize this particular phase of professional obligation as it relates to your future practice as dentists.

Let me now consider for a brief space another question, which must of necessity come very close home to you at the present time. You are each going out on your several ways to appeal to the public for patronage, and it is a matter of much moment to you whether the reception that awaits you is to be encouraging or otherwise. We hear alarming tales in these latter days of the deplorable overcrowding of the dental profession, and I honestly fear that, to a certain class of practising dentists, you, as a body of young men going out into the field, are not a very welcome commodity. But let me hasten to assure you that every worthy practitioner of dentistry, if he has a spark of manhood about him, will be glad to extend to you the right hand of fellowship and make you feel at home in our ranks, and it is a matter of no small pride that I have been honored by the privilege of being one of the first to extend you a welcome.

Now, let us see whether or not this hue and cry about overcrowding is well founded. My very good friend, the Editor of the *DOMINION DENTAL JOURNAL*, seems profoundly impressed by the conviction that affairs in the dental world are rapidly drifting into chaos on account of this overcrowding. I must cheerfully grant that he is in a better position than I to judge of the merits of this matter in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, and yet I find myself sufficiently venturesome, in view of our extremely cordial personal relations, to take a rather emphatic, though good-humored, issue with him. Are there too many dentists? The question does not relate to whether there are any number of unfortunate practitioners who are barely eking out a miserable existence, and who are screwed down by the exigencies of the case to adopt a beggarly fee-bill that would disgrace a self-respecting boot-black. That is not the question at all. We have such men in our midst, and they must not be ignored, and I am profoundly sorry for them; but for