

to give students, I will do them the justice of believing that the majority are animated by a sincere desire to quit themselves like men for the difficulties and drawbacks of the profession of their choice, and that they do not intend to be satisfied by shirking or sluggishness.

First of all, my boys, just start out with the determination to serve your tutor as a matter of duty, and not of slavery. If you've got the notion into your head that laboratory work is menial, and that it is not your business to clean up the dirt you must necessarily make; if you imagine that your tutor should hire a boy to run after your heels with a dust pan and a broom, give up studying dentistry, and go into poetry, or perhaps theology. You are altogether too high-toned *in your fingers* for a laboratory, and unless you buckle down to business seriously, be just as much of a blacksmith, moulder, carpenter and tinker as every student must be who is determined to 'master mechanical dentistry in all its meanest as well as magnificent details; unless you do this, you may count upon occupying a back seat in practice. I rejoice at the change which exacts a matriculation examination; which insists that the laboratory shall be something more scientific than a jeweller's bench; which forces students to understand the why and the wherefore, as well as the way to produce a result. But after all the theory in your head, and the science in your mind, you must have the manipulative skill in your finger ends. Whatever then of detail you can learn of any branch of mechanism which has any bearing upon mechanical dentistry, grasp it. You'll be a better student and a better dentist.

I have had much experience of students, and I know so well just what to expect, that I confess I prefer a poor boy to a rich one; a lad who is more anxious to get work, than one who is anxious to shirk it. In fact, boys do not seem to me nowadays to have the common sense of boys half a century ago. They are more frequently insolent and neglectful, and have little idea of the duty they owe to their tutors. It is impossible for a student to become proficient in the laboratory unless he repeats again and again any work he attempts. Too many imagine that because they can pack and vulcanize a set they need not continue doing it; but that is pure nonsense. Under the customary method in England of indenturing apprentices to trades for seven years, and dental