

faithful work and maintaining a high standard suffered from the faults of those which were in the habit of receiving unqualified students from abroad, and whose curriculum of study was altogether insufficient. To those not intimately acquainted with American educational matters there were no means of distinguishing between the good and the bad colleges. All were, by unthinking and uninformed people, charged with the irregularities of the few, and the consequence has been that the reputation of our educational institutions in general has suffered.

Nor was there any complete understanding among the colleges which did desire to maintain a proper standard. Each of our nearly fifty separate states is autonomous so far as education is concerned, that being one of the matters left to domestic regulation by the general government. There can be no compulsory harmony of action, for each college is, in a measure, a law unto itself, within the limits of state regulation. So long as there was no harmonious concert of procedure, the result of a common agreement and understanding between the different schools, whose sole source of income was from the students in attendance, the strife for matriculants and patronage almost necessarily led to a depression of the standard, and too often to irregular graduations.

In the absence of a common law regulating the course of study, some general agreement became a necessity for the maintenance of a proper educational status. To accomplish this the National Association of Dental Faculties was formed. At the date of its organization the general tone had been so much depressed that it was impossible to establish such a standard for matriculation and graduation as was desirable, but only such colleges were admitted as had the proper facilities for complete instruction, and were conducted by a corps of competent teachers. All other schools were excluded, and their tickets certifying to attendance upon lectures, with their diplomas, were refused recognition by the colleges belonging to the Association. Stringent rules governing attendance, instruction and graduation were adopted, and schools violating them were severely disciplined. The course of study was extended to three full years, and the semesters gradually lengthened until they included from seven to nine months of each year. The curriculum was expanded, until it comprised all the branches of study which the growth of modern professional practice has made necessary. As a consequence, it is believed that each and every one of the colleges embraced in the membership of the National Association of Dental Faculties is now giving thorough professional instruction, and is receiving no students who cannot present the evidence of a fair preliminary education. This has been the work of years, for it was impracticable and unwise to make the transition too abrupt. There is much yet to be accomplished, but