

and instruments, and the only plea for a dentist not doing his own mechanical work is that it ruins the look of his hands, and makes them feel harsh round the patient's mouth.

A word about dress may not be out of place here. It is generally supposed that a *gentleman's* dress is always suitable to the occasion—but I know of some members of our profession who, by appearing in the morning arrayed in evening dress have evoked from the surprised patient the query, "Am I addressing Mr.—?" doubting whether he had entered a dentist's consulting rooms or intruded upon a conjuror about to give a séance; or who, by wearing lounge coats or shooting jackets, create in the mind of the patient an uneasy suspicion that he has fallen into the hands of an amateur artist or a cockney sportsman, instead of into those of a man whose chief devotion is to his profession.

I have heard of men who in the surgery wear heavy boots with mud upon them, who bring in with them the odours of the stable, the smoking room or the bar, and whose cuffs and collars are certainly no advertisement for their laundress. But we hope that such occurrences are rather the exception than the rule, and that the recounter of them obtained, as Sheridan said of Mr. Dundas, "his facts from imagination."

Ever bearing in mind the influence of one's surroundings, it is very important to avoid so displaying our instruments and various appliances as to suggest either a chemist's shop or a torture chamber. We should endeavor to keep the atmosphere and surroundings free from suggesting the sufferings of the previous patient, avoiding as far as possible the use of strong smelling drugs, and removing from sight all soiled napkins and rubber. I think it wise to place our cabinets slightly behind the operating chair, and to abstain from the use of mirrors in front of the patients. It is at times very undesirable for our patients to observe our actions, which may be closely followed by the untimely reflection of a piece of glass. If medicine bottles are used on the bracket it is well to make it a rule to turn the label away from the patient. I have seen a patient actually grow nervous at the sight of a bottle labelled "Chloroform," and fearfully ask if she were about to be anæsthetized, when the unobservant operator had no thought beyond smoothing off a G. P. filling.

One cannot be too careful in practise to have one's surgery and waiting room suitably furnished, the appearance of quietly and harmoniously decorated rooms have a wonderfully soothing effect on patients of all temperaments. Neither should the rooms be too luxuriously furnished, for I have heard patients, when speaking of such houses, say that they knew the fees they pay are in direct ratio to the elegance of the appointments. One should not, however go too far to the other extreme, and let the rooms become shabby or show an absence of finish, for then the fact is borne in