

convinced that one who could meet these requirements has most of the characteristics of the ideal dentist, yet we have in our ranks many whose earnest efforts to reach that ideal have met with a large measure of success. What boundless patience with ignorance, what gentleness with suffering, what courtesy to meet rudeness, what firmness and decision with the timid, what forgetfulness of self are required, only we who go the weary round each day can know. We are confronted daily with the grossest ignorance of anything pertaining to dentistry or even to decent cleanliness. It is scarcely reasonable to expect in our patients any great knowledge of the principles of dentistry, and we are or should be always ready and glad to explain to willing listeners, but those who come with preconceived ideas of what should be done, and, right or wrong accept no denial, tax our patience to the utmost. It is hard for such people to believe that pride in honest work is a stronger power than the mighty dollar. While I would be the last to say anything disparaging of woman, whose desire to make herself attractive-looking has added materially to our bank account, I still look regretfully back upon the times when I have put the smallest, whitest, prettiest teeth where nature had originally put far different dentures, just because, "When a woman will, she will, you may depend on't; and when she wont, she wont, and there's an end on't."

Gentlemen, let us make it an important point in our ethical code that, before the duty of pleasing our patients comes the duty of doing good, honest work. Is my ethical code old-fogeyish, somewhat behind the times, out of date? Show me a better standard and I will adopt it. For I agree with Bro. Remus, when he says: "Dar aint no wuss victim of misplaced confidence dan the man who gets to thinking he knows everything." Perhaps Prof. Thompson put it better when he used to tell his students. "No one of us is quite infallible, not even the youngest." Every year brings new ideas and new inventions that are indeed a help to our profession, but let us be sure they are right before we accept them. I will gladly mount the wheel of progress with any one of you, but we have all seen many a scorcher come to grief, and while our wheel goes swiftly and well over the smooth road, there will be many rough spots and many a hard climb, where we will be glad to mount again the good old steed that served our fathers so well.