

may be that this condition of affairs is largely responsible for the poor character of a great deal of the artificial work and operative work we see, and that the dentist, living in a rush, with increased expenses and decreased fees, is not able to give the proper time to his labors. If the patients fairly realized this, both they and we would be better served. During several visits to Montreal and Boston, I was amazed to witness the way in which the public is humbugged by the show-case and golden tooth fraternity, who it seems to me, come sufficiently within the reach of your law to have legal restraints placed upon them *in the interest of the public*. The modern craze for cheapness degrades dentistry more than it degrades trade, and these vulgar quacks—for they are nothing better—place the profession before the public on a level with the trader, and people go shopping for teeth, as they go from stall to stall in the markets, beating down the market women in the price of a cabbage. Then again, we have a class of men who condemn these show-case frauds, while they themselves resort to unprofessional and untrue circulars, pamphlets and advertisements, puffing up their own qualifications and running down those of their neighbors. If we could get the public to recognize that dentistry is not a trade these trade tricks would only hurt, their authors, and as a regular reader of your journal, you will excuse me for saying that if the respectable portion of the profession would more generally follow the lead in these questions which you have editorially so long pointed out, the quacks and loose fish of the profession would find their level with the public as they long ago have found it in the profession. Medical men of any pretence to decency do not resort to these trade tricks. Even medical quacks rarely, if ever, use them. They may lie by the yard, but they rarely offer reductions in fees as the chief bait to the ignorant and unwary. Our gutter dentists, as you very properly styled them, can equal them so far as deliberate falsehood goes, but they beat them all hollow so far as offering ten dollars' worth for two. I find I have been led away somewhat from my subject, but these considerations have a direct influence upon the question of amalgam, and, in fact, anything else in practical dentistry.

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