

In reading and studying dental literature to the best advantage it is necessary to plan some system whereby the work may be pursued in a regular and consecutive manner. The average subscriber to our journals probably falls far short of gaining the greatest possible benefit from his literature on account of aimless methods of reading. To subscribe for a journal and then leave it lying around the office to be picked up in a hap-hazard sort of way whenever chance suggests a spare moment, is to waste, for the most part, the money paid for subscriptions. Such desultory reading as this leaves no lasting impression on the mind, and results at best in a confused idea of what is going on in dentistry. No one method of reading can be laid down as a guide for all subscribers to follow. Individual circumstances and conditions operate to render necessary a separate plan for almost every reader. Each one should study out that plan which, to him, seems the most convenient and profitable, and this method when once arranged, should be rigidly adhered to until a better one presents itself. This may at first require some discipline, and usually dentists are not good disciplinarians (especially when it comes to disciplining themselves), but in the end it will be found that even discipline itself becomes a habit, and if the method pursued be the one best suited to the requirements of the individual, it will soon seem easy to follow.

While, as has been said, no one method can be advanced as suitable for all, yet a few general suggestions may prove of interest. Supposing the subscriber be a young man just starting in practice, the advice is to read carefully every article appearing in the journals. This may at first thought appear like a waste of time, but there are many arguments to favor its observance. The beginner often has considerable time not taken by appointments, and that time may be more profitably spent in making himself familiar with the literature of the profession than in any other manner. No young dentist of a receptive nature can read an article treating on any line of practice without carrying the influence of that article to the operating chair or laboratory. In the early days of practice it may be well to keep the journals at the office for at least the first month of their appearance, where they may be perused at will during any spare time. It is far better to keep the mind fully engaged with topics relating to practice than to read light literature during office hours, or to sit brooding over lack of practice. After the journal has served its purpose at the office, it should be taken to the home and placed in regular order in the library. During the process of reading the journal, careful note should be taken of those articles which will justify a second reading and subsequent study. To keep a list of these, it is well to have an indexed title book in which to record the title of the article, with the name and date of the journal. This title book, or