

that it becomes as necessary to have some recognized or written code of ethics as to have laws for the government of the business and morals of the country; and he who violates this code, either in relation to his professional brethren or with his patients, is as amenable to his brother or the public as though he had violated a civil law of the state. Indeed, under the present law respecting dentistry and dental societies, the code as adopted becomes an absolute law; as this society is organized and working in accordance with that law, which, with the general laws of this State, give all corporate bodies the power to adopt any by-laws, rules and regulations for their governance, and of their individual members, which do not conflict with the laws of the State; and such enactments become absolute laws with that body. Such is the Code of Ethics as adopted by this Society. It is founded on the general principles of that unwritten high moral law which gives tone, and is known and recognized alike in all professions, commerce and trades, as well as in the common walks of life. It is the foundation, the heart and soul of civilized communities. Should we deny its legal force, we must still hold the position that no individual has the *moral* right to act irrespectively of the rights of others; for, in a community, each individual is but a part—whole in himself to be sure—but one member of a community, while all the members in harmony, are necessary to make perfect the integrity of the whole. But, as I have already said, it becomes necessary to have written laws, and the dental profession might adopt, without alteration, the code as written by our elder sister, who is the direct and lineal heir of Æsculapius, in whose line of descent we are. The intimate relationship of the two branches of the healing art make one and the same code applicable, though that of dentistry may be regarded as still in its infancy. But is the child ever too young to be directed or governed? This branch is really the offspring of the nineteenth century, if not actually of the present generation, and of American parentage. Though scarcely reaching its majority, or taking position in adult life, it has grown to giant proportions. In the year 1800 there were not a score of individuals, in 1820 about one hundred, in 1840, from the best statistics, about four thousand, while 1870 finds in the ranks probably about ten thousand in the United States alone, that appropriate the name of "DENTIST." But this vast number will give but one to every four thousand of the whole population.

From the first, there were a few noble men—long live their mem-