

money can obtain. It is the purchase of long hours and years of reading and reflection, theory and practice.

The importance of anatomy is evident, that we may understand the structure and formation of the body we treat; physiology, that we may understand the natural functions and duties of each part, their origin and development; pathology and therapeutics, that we may recognize the departures from the normal condition and the remedies to be used; chemistry, mechanics, and, indeed, even the collateral sciences. The more conservative dentistry is made, the closer must it be allied to medicine.

You are aware of the suspicion and slander cast upon our early efforts by a few men in our ranks, and echoed by a portion of the Montreal press. Nothing was too bad to be said of our Society and the Board of Examiners. We were told that we had carried reform to the verge of tyranny, and were combined against liberty and justice. But what is the result to-day? Did our act do anything for us that it did not do for those who opposed or ignored it? Does the Board of Examiners and this organization do no good for society in diffusing dental knowledge, in improving practice, and elevating the condition of an important profession of which the public could not well do without? And may I ask those few who accuse us of selfish motives in organizing the society, what personal interests can any one of us here serve by coming to these meetings, and revealing any good method of practice we think we possess. If selfish motives influenced us, we would better serve them, by refusing to attend here, and by following in the steps of our fathers.

With respect to the great bug-bear, quackery, time will, I am sure, rid the profession of much of the sham and imposition practised by some calling themselves dentists; but we have the remedy in our own hands, and that is, to educate the public. The task of reform in dental practice devolves upon us; and our opportunity is afforded in our surgeries, in our work, and in our press. Quacks will exist just as surely as weeds will grow, but neither quacks nor weeds should be spared. Unless the practical plan of Alphonso of Castile for regenerating mankind—to kill nine out of every ten—were adopted with empirics, they will be found, and our best remedy is to cultivate a public sentiment opposed to show cases, flaring signs and advertisements, and to educate the people to judge of a respectable Dentist as they would of a physician,—and we know our leading physicians,—the men who are to be trusted, do not hang out catch penny sign-boards, or rival a Barnum in the humbug of their advertisements. Let us make the profession respectable. It can never be truly scientific and not respectable. A dentist who acts against this