

cincts; in fact, as one writer said: All dental laws are but an assertion by the people of their police power for their own protection, and such legislation is defensible only on the theory that inasmuch as ignorance and malpractice in any branch of medicine are followed by consequences serious to the health of the patient the public has a right to demand of those desirous of attending bodily ailments, proofs of fitness for such calling. And inasmuch as the duty of any member of a liberal profession demands that he shall give the public the advice best calculated to protect their every interest, so it is the duty of the dentist when consulted, as they generally are, as to the practicability of laws about to be enacted, or as to regulations for the carrying out of the same, to advise licensing only upon evidence of such requirements as will leave no doubt in his mind concerning the qualifications of the applicant.

In this connection it might be mentioned that the tendency is very apparent with the medical and other liberal professions to

KEEP THE STANDARD OF QUALIFICATION WELL ABREAST  
OF THE TIMES,

and from year to year to make the test more comprehensive and more exacting. This is as it should be, and while the claim of some enthusiastic medicos, that graduation in arts should be made the standard of matriculation, or if the preliminary may appear rather exacting, still the idea that the matriculation examination is but of minor importance, provided the candidate is successful with his finals, is altogether too widely spread and ought to be contradicted. Immediately take issue with such idea, first because the mental training and acquirements, such as only a good course of reading in English will produce, are highly essential, and secondly because if one fails to acquire studious habits in early life, it is extremely doubtful, to my mind, if he will be found one who will afterwards pursue a course of direct or collateral reading such as ought to be pursued by a member of any liberal profession; and therefore 'twere good for him and better for the profession had he adopted some other calling for his life-work.

Harris says "dentistry, as a true science and art, is built upon the foundation of a generous early education," and "it requires the broadest literary and classical education of boyhood to counteract the necessarily narrowing influences of the professional studies of manhood." And if that early reading be neglected, he adds that it is by such early restriction of thought and action within the narrow limits of life's future pursuit, that a physician is unknown beyond the sick-room; a surgeon contributes nothing to the interests of science, etc.; a dentist holds no social position.