

authorized to recommend action on his case, as no definite charges or proofs had been offered.

Dr. Atkinson called to mind the remark of Dr. McQuillen at the time of the adoption of the Code of Ethics, that it was unnecessary for gentlemen, and useless for those who were not such. He did not like the idea of singling out one or two as examples and leaving all the others to go free. It was well known that Dr. Watt, who had so persistently urged the adoption of this code, had gone home and signally violated its provisions, and yet no one had lifted up a voice against him. He thought the adoption of laws of this nature peculiarly unfortunate; because they would be brought to bear unequally; while one would be made to suffer the utmost penalty, others would be allowed to go free.

Dr. Fitch asked to be heard in explanation. He said that many loose and unfounded charges were floating about against him. The sum of his offence, he said, was this: that he had advertised the public of New York in good faith that he was ready to operate at reduced prices on certain days and hours; because there was a large class of most worthy people in that city who were desirous to preserve their teeth, and could not afford to pay the current rates of first-class operators. He had done nothing to lower the standard of professional skill, but only made use of the circumstances of the case to minister to his necessities. He yielded to no man in his love for the profession, and his desire for its advancement. He had meant to do no wrong in any course he had pursued, and, whatever the action of the Association, should endeavor to maintain the character of his professional operations, and devote his efforts to the relief of humanity within the range of his practice.

On a motion being made to refer Dr. McClelland's case to the Committee on Ethics for the ensuing year—

Dr. McQuillen opposed very strongly the postponement, and was in favor of proceeding at once with the trial of this case, which was a most flagrant one. As already stated, he had objected to the adoption of a code of ethics; but since it had become part of the organic law of the Association, he demanded its enforcement. While it was mortifying to know that the Code had been violated by one who had prepared it, and was most zealous in forcing it upon the organization, yet it was not an unusual thing in the history of morals for men to make laws and then to be the first to break them. It was much better to make few if any professions, and rather exceed than fall