

striving to reach the same goal, but let us insist on fair play, as much as when we were boys. The poet who wrote,

"Man wants but little here below,
Nor wants that little long,"

lived before the time of the modern dentist. He wants a great deal, and that as well as professional fame is what he is striving for. Doctors of medicine agree upon a schedule of rates, reasonable for the place in which they live, and he who deviates therefrom without good and sufficient reason, forfeits the esteem of his professional brothers. Will not the same rule hold good in our profession as well? Are we, when consulted by the patient of a brother dentist, sufficiently careful not to criticise his treatment? Do we put ourselves in his place and speak of him as we would have him speak of us? If we could sometimes forget our individual selfish aims in that larger *esprit de corps*, we could do much to elevate the standing of our profession. As we come to consider our duty to our patients, we think surely this should have been considered first, for the others are of necessity secondary to that—the means toward the end. The duty we owe our patients is self-evident to every practitioner. In the first place, our offices should be made comfortable and attractive to a degree commensurate with our circumstances and convenience, with as little display of instruments and appliances as possible. Our reception room should be comfortable and home-like, free from disagreeable odors or other disturbing elements, and should be, as far as practicable, separate from the operating room. The operating room, which is the "Star Chamber" of dentistry, should be supplied with all conveniences in the way of instruments and appliances necessary to the performance of the different operations which we are called upon to perform. In this connection I deem it of the utmost importance that we keep our instruments not only thoroughly disinfected but they should be well assorted, sharp and keen. Much of the dire dread and accompanying pain can be alleviated by using well adapted sharp instruments. It has been remarked, and with some truth, that the best cataphoresis is a steady hand and a sharp instrument. We owe our patients immaculate cleanliness. In person or surroundings nothing should appear to offend the most sensitive; even in the finger tips, no suggestion of bacteriological deposit should exist.

I quote from a recent journal as expressing clearly my own views: "Meet your patient as a friend, cordially, familiarly, cheerily. Easy simplicity, social suavity, and professional courtesy must be instinctive, spontaneous, hearty. Our success in receiving our patients is half the battle. We must have the dignity of a man of business, the reserve of a professional, and the polish of a gentleman, yet be as kind, gentle and tender-hearted as a child." I am