

desired to specially address the few remarks he had to make to the graduating class, who after a few years of preparation were about to enter upon the duties and responsibilities of their noble profession. They must be conscious that, however diligently they had striven to fit themselves for their calling, they were only now on the threshold of knowledge, in fact, the science itself was yet in a transient state. Referring to the immense advances which this century had witnessed in all branches of art and science, the speaker claimed that in no department had greater progress been made than in that in which they were most interested. Half a century ago little was known, and the literature extant was practically worthless. In 1839 the first dental periodical appeared, and to-day there were 125 regularly published. In 1840 the American Society of Dental Surgeons was established—the first of its kind—and now about 150 of these bodies are in existence on this continent, while every important centre of population in Europe has its local organization. Co-operation in association had been of inestimable service in bringing about the present condition of affairs, not only in facilitating the increase of knowledge and research, but in obtaining wise legislation and the establishment of legally authorized colleges and schools. Of these latter there are thirty-three in America, fourteen in England, and others in nearly every European country. With this grand record of the past, the speaker urged his hearers to press onward into the glorious future; the forces which had done all this are stronger and abler to-day than ever before. The dental profession was a battalion in the grand army whose mission it was to attack ignorance, darkness and disease, and carry knowledge and healing to suffering humanity; and those before him as individual soldiers in that battalion must ever strive to equip themselves thoroughly and fight earnestly and untiringly.

The learned Professor was listened to throughout with close attention, and only interrupted by frequent applause.

The proceedings, which had been enlivened at intervals by orchestral selections, were closed by the national anthem.