

It is not necessary, probably, for me to exhort you to join in the Scotchman's prayer, "Lord, give us a good opinion of ourselves," but I would urge upon you to cultivate such a confidence in your ability to succeed by legitimate means as shall enable you, during this trying period of which I have spoken, to look calmly on at the unprofessional methods of your *confrères* without feeling any temptation to join in them.

When you have been duly certified by the properly constituted authority as "qualified to practise dentistry," take it for granted that an intelligent public will believe that you are "qualified," and abstain from particularizing your own attainments and advantages, for in so doing you but suggest to outsiders that you must have very grave doubts yourselves, as to your fitness for the duties you have undertaken. And in many cases, probably, the "doubt" would be very well founded.

It will not require a very prolonged study of the dental advertisements in the daily and weekly press, even of this city, to convince the inquirer that dentistry is not yet out of the mire and dirt of quackery and charlatanism. With better advantages and grander opportunities than had those who went before you, let it be your aim to help manfully and earnestly to lift it to a higher plane. Determine to achieve professional success by honorable, straightforward methods or not at all.

In a very important sense it is true that "all things come to him who waits," but he must wait in the industrious, intelligent use of the appropriate means. We exhort you, therefore, to enter upon your professional career with becoming modesty, with a patience that knows no weariness, an industry that knows no lagging, a persistence that makes no note of hindrances, a determination to succeed that reckons not of failure, an integrity of purpose that knows no flinching, and if the stuff be in you, enduring success will speedily be your reward.

We have hitherto spoken only of professional success, but this ought to be regarded as a means to an end, rather than the end itself. That life may be classed as wasted which merely succeeds in accumulating wealth and assuming the importance which its possession secures. The gathering together of riches for the service of self merely is a mean, sordid and petty employment for an intelligent, responsible and immortal being. We urge you to a higher,