

sought to improve the position of our profession, we must always remember that it is only because the advancement of our profession is, broadly speaking, for the public weal, that what has been effected in the past was possible, and that which may be effected in the future can come into the sphere of possibility only upon the same grounds of a general public utility."—*Journal of the British Dental Association*.

How Best to Read and Study and Write Dental Literature.*

By C. N. JOHNSON, L.D.S., D.D.S., Chicago, Ill.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,—The phrase "dental literature" in the title given the essayist by your committee probably relates more particularly to the periodical literature of the profession than to books, and it is to this phase of the subject that, with your permission, the writer will chiefly devote himself. Most of the dental literature of the present day is made up of matter appearing either originally or finally in dental journals, for there is very little that is published in books but what has, in one form or another, found utterance in periodicals. It may, therefore, be realized what an important place in the general literature of the profession our journalistic literature is destined to fill, and he who keeps well abreast with his dental journals and watches closely the book reviews contained therein, so that he may avail himself of any special book on a subject of interest to him, need not fear of missing much that is of permanent value.

The division of the subject into three parts, to read, to study and to write, very justly implies that there is a distinction between reading and studying, and yet for the purposes of the present paper it may be well to consider the two in the same connection. At the outset it must be assumed—with the possible risk of taking too much for granted—that all are agreed as to the necessity of a familiarity with our periodical literature in order for a dentist to keep himself fully alive to the best interests of his patrons. The question for our present consideration is, how best may this familiarity be maintained?

To gain a comprehensive idea of what is going on in the profession, a dentist should subscribe for five or six journals at least. No one journal can supply the demands of a progressive man, for each journal has its distinguishing characteristics, and therefore represents a different line of thought from the others.

*Read before the joint meeting of the Iowa and Nebraska State Dental Societies, May, 1894.