

of different metals we shall excite a galvanic action which will have a deleterious effect. Such may be the case, but I have never seen it unless the two metals were brought in contact, and I do not believe it is possible that it can occur except in exceedingly rare cases, if ever. I have met hundreds of mouths with teeth filled with both gold and tin, without ever meeting an instance in which a sufficient amount of galvanic action had been excited to be perceptible. The saliva acts less on pure tin than on any of the metals employed for filling teeth except gold, frequently remaining nearly untarnished for years. As a cheap filling it is infinitely preferable to amalgam, in that it leaves no sting behind.

---

#### VALEDICTORY ADDRESS.

BY E. T. WHITNEY, D.D.S., PRESIDENT.

*Read before the Eighth District Dental Society of New York, Jan.  
18th, 1870.*

GENTLEMEN :

The By-Law imposes upon the President the duty of delivering an annual or valedictory address. At the last annual meeting, by special request of the Committee on Essayists and subjects, I spoke of the organization and government of dental societies. I now propose to follow up that subject, by saying something of the fraternal relationship of their members, of their duty to themselves, to each other, to their patients, and to the public; something of the principles and general working of professional etiquette; something of the morals and manners of dentists as professional gentlemen.

The last two words of the last sentence—*professional gentlemen*—comprise the whole ground and framework of this address. It is the superstructure complete. A man entering any profession, if he has a well balanced and cultivated mind, an honest and humane heart that incites him to do unto others as he would that they should do unto him, and a good, common sense knowledge of the demands and courtesies of civilized society, is intuitively or by natural bent of mind and force of habit, *that man*. He needs no written laws, no written rules of etiquette to direct or govern his actions. But we are not in our primal state of moral goodness. The passions and dispositions of men tend to drift them apart so widely, avarice, ambition, self-conceit, ignorance that aims to be counted wise, and many other *cardinal* faults, so influence us in our relations with each other, and with the world,