

### Ethics.

A Paper read before the Nova Scotia Dental Association, at their Annual Meeting, at Halifax, September 30th, 1891.

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First, What is ethics? The definition given in our dictionaries defines it as "The science of moral duty." This may give us an outline or skeleton of the word, but to know the science of moral duty, to feel its impress and force within one's self, it becomes necessary to analyze its true meaning, and to examine, so as to discover, if possible, what this science of moral duty consists of; what are its principal constituents and elementary principles; how they may be applied to every one in life, and most especially to the individual members of our dental profession; and if it is possible for every professional man to possess these elements that make up this moral code, and, having this within himself, to honestly and conscientiously live up to its moral teachings and principles of moral duty.

On analysis, we find, first, it becomes requisite to be possessed of a conscience—one, if possible, "void of offence toward God and man," one that has, at least, some small spark of the image of our Creator, that may be fanned into actual life and brought to know that, at least, "Honesty is the best policy," and that "An honest man is the noblest work of God."

"'Tis man's inhumanity to man  
Makes countless millions mourn."

What is life without health? is often asked. So we ask, What is life without a conscience? No conscience: no moral life, no spiritual existence, no principle, no conscientious stimulus to urge us on to nobler deeds and higher and nobler motives, to lift us up to a higher plane than *self*. Conscience, we find, therefore to its full capacity, is the first and principal element that covers this science of moral duty. We can not exist without it, no more than without food to sustain life. Conscience should enter into every act and thought of our life; this, too, in our daily profession. The *Dental Cosmos* for June has as follows, under "The Ethics of