

The first named takes a student to avoid having to do the dirty work of the laboratory, or for the tuition fee which he charges. The student, after graduating from such an office, has learned little more of practical work than how to boil and finish up rubber plates. We find men of this class trafficking in students. They charge a tuition fee. After a year or so the student asks to be released, as he is not getting the class of work which he knows he should get to do. The release is readily granted when the preceptor is in a position to accept another student. The student starts out to seek a situation upon salary for the balance of the term. Cases of this kind have come under the writer's notice.

The second class has plenty of work, both mechanical and operative. The student is taught to do the mechanical work and may be brought into the operating room to see operations performed in the mouth, or he may take his personal friends into the extracting chair and operate upon them, but to allow him to operate upon his preceptor's patients and possibly warm himself into their good graces, is out of the question.

I once called upon a practitioner and found his student in the laboratory taking an impression of his own mouth. This he said he was doing for practice, that his experience had been very limited and he did not wish to appear to disadvantage at college, where he was about to attend his last session. He was completing his fourth year's pupilage when the law only required two years, and yet he had not been allowed to perform the simple operation of taking impressions. His preceptor told me his patients would not allow a student to work for them. Another, who regularly kept a student and who also charged a tuition fee, told me he wanted no man to work for his patients but himself.

The practitioner who undertakes the education of a dental student assumes a grave responsibility; first, in regard to the student himself; secondly, to the profession; and thirdly, to the public. When a young man enters upon his life work it is of vital importance to him that he selects the calling for which he is best suited.

Perhaps no calling requires a more varied combination of qualities to insure success than does dentistry. The preceptor should recognize this, and take every precaution to ascertain whether or not the applicant for articles possesses sufficient of those to make him ordinarily successful. Should he find him lacking in any of the principal qualities which combine to make a successful dentist, he should point it out and advise him to adopt a calling for which he may be better adapted. This cannot always be ascertained until a young man has been some time in the office. It is, therefore a good plan to have an applicant, to whom there is no known objection, spend a few weeks or months in the office and laboratory before signing articles.