

To those students who come to us for the first time I would say, take every course and every clinic that you can attend; "knowledge is power," and the next few years will be the great opportunity of your lives for storing up facts and theories; cultivate a habit of study and seek to understand all points as they come up for discussion, because the curriculum will be arranged so that there will be no repetition on the part of different lecturers. Let me remind you to cultivate a kind and considerate manner at the operating chair while in the infirmary, for you have chosen an occupation which is very wearing to the nervous system, and it is therefore of importance to your success in life that you should form good habits of address. I need not emphasize the absolute necessity of good and honest work in every case if you mean to climb to the top of the tree. Aim high! the drudgery is hard to endure but success awaits you.

Do not despise the primary course; remember you cannot practise intelligently unless you understand the construction and functions of the body which you have daily to treat. There is a disposition on the part of some to regard everything that is not directly connected with the treatment of the teeth as an obstacle put in their way to prevent them from obtaining their diploma, and to look upon their lecturers, and most of all the Board of Examiners, as their chief enemies in life.

If anything I have said has encouraged you to set your standard higher than a contentment with merely obtaining just a sufficient percentage to gain your diploma, I shall feel amply rewarded. Let me remind you of the vast strides made in late years by such men as Kingsley, Flagg, Farrar, Miller of Berlin, Black, and many others whose names will at once occur to you.

Subscribe to the various journals and read them carefully—especially any articles by men of repute. Let me remind you that there is a great need for systematic and scientific research. We do not know how to prevent the occurrence of caries of the teeth, and an ideal filling material has yet to be found or invented. It was a Montreal dentist named Spooner, who first introduced the disagreeable but effective method of devitalizing dental pulp by arsenious acid, a mode of treatment which is in almost universal practice to day. Why should not a graduate of this college discover a method just as sure and without the attendant pain?

We have splendid examples of what a dental college may become in those of the great republic alongside us, and the work they are doing may well make us proud of our confreres in the profession. Let it be ours to equal if we cannot surpass them in friendly rivalry, that we may feel that we are bearing an honorable share in the amelioration of physical suffering, in the cause of humanity, and in the advancement of scientific research.