

having done his whole duty. Happy, indeed, must he be who, when he has lain down the mallet and chisel, can conscientiously say of his life work, well done.

CONSCIENTIOUSNESS WITH OUR PROFESSIONAL BROTHERS.

To our brother practitioners we should be respectful when respect is possible (there are times when it is not). We should be charitable in our criticisms and generous in our praises of him who deserves them.

To say a kind word of a neighbor dentist does not injure us, and it may help him. Indeed, I believe to severely criticise the work of a former dentist to a patient does us more harm than the one so criticised.

Old Dr. Dixon, of Philadelphia, once told a story which nicely illustrates this point. He said a lady presented herself to have her teeth examined, and after having looked them over carefully he said to her, "The man who did that work for you didn't understand his business." She turned to him in some surprise and said, "Perhaps not, doctor, but you did it yourself." The only reply he could make, and it was no doubt true, was, "Well I can do better than that now." It taught him a lesson in charity towards others which he never forgot. It was work done in his early practice before he had acquired much skill or experience. We must all, I think, look back upon our first work with a good deal of humiliation. So we should be especially charitable toward the young practitioner; try to help him up, not push him down. Look upon him as a compatriot, not as a competitor.

To our professional brothers we owe much. Very little that any of us do is original with ourselves, and it is our duty to add as much as we can to the common stock of helps. Most of you, I have no doubt, have some little device, method, or trick of your own which has helped you over some difficulty and might be of benefit to others if presented here at our meetings, and yet when asked, few of you have anything to present. We should all be as anxious to give as to receive and thus add greatly to the interest of our meetings. Every member of every dental society should be on the alert to see what he could bring to the next meeting that would help some one. What has helped him will be very likely to help some one else. It is this kind of intercourse that is the soul of progress.

It is also important to be conscientious with ourselves. When we have completed a splendid operation, we should be properly compensated for it; it is our due and we should have courage to demand compensation commensurate with our skill, when the patient is able to meet it, and not be influenced by what others get for an inferior piece of work.