

the rest of mankind in this respect. There are always two classes of members, the *active* and *passive*, or "workers" and "drones."

There is a difference even in the latter class, for some are more willing than able to do, while others are unwilling to work whether able or not. It is well for both classes to come into our associations, for they derive benefit at no extra cost on the part of others. They assist in contributing to the financial support of societies, and are sometimes converted into useful workers.

Useful as associations have been, few, if any, have done all they might have done for the benefit of their members or for the communities wherein they exist. Few of their members have severely taxed their energies to support and keep them in working order. Some have labored with a degree of assiduity, but even they might have done more. There is a broad field of usefulness still in the foreground. If the members of each society would work together with a will—labor patiently and harmoniously with a truly fraternal spirit—the influence they could command and the usefulness that might accrue from their united efforts could hardly be estimated or conceived.

In society gatherings, all petty bickerings and professional jealousies should be put aside. Offensive personalities should never be indulged in. Higher aims and better motives should govern each head and heart. To give and to receive instruction, with generous hearts and appreciative minds, is the grand foundation for a successful dental society. In union there is strength and a great degree of safety. A "profession" of isolated beings is imbecile, is insignificant. It has no position, it commands no respect. It can claim no rights, or possesses no power to maintain them. It plods its way through darkness with a scarcely perceptible progress. But gather together the isolated units, and what a force is secured! A snowflake is a tiny atom so delicate as to melt at the touch of one's finger, yet an aggregation of these minute feathery atoms has formed a barrier that defied the mighty efforts of the powerful steam-engine while dashing along its track of iron with a seemingly irresistible fury! So, well organized societies are the bulwarks of strength to a profession, as well as ever-flowing sources of instruction and profit. They should, therefore, be supported and encouraged by all good dentists.

If properly conducted, society meetings may be exceedingly interesting and attractive; but to be such they need some definite and decided system of action. For the want of this many societies, that