

to know that this matter has been greatly improved, and to-day our best colleges require a fair preliminary examination before matriculation. In some States an examination before a State Board of Regents is required, which is a step in the right direction. We desire to be classed as professional men, we must therefore fit ourselves to meet the requirements demanded of professional men in other lines. The title "Doctor," as applied to a doctor of medicine, is practically a distinctive mark of scholarly attainment. While it certainly is not my design to lower the position we occupy by courtesy, if not always by education, yet I cannot help asking, How many of us are fully entitled to that much coveted and jealously-guarded title, Doctor? It may be remarked, and with some justice, too, that we have in our profession men who are excellent dentists and yet are far from scholarly. This may be true, but, gentlemen, to bring our profession up to the high standard for which we all hope, our ranks must be recruited by young men of educational as well as dental attainment.

I do not need to remind you, gentlemen, that there is no profession so trying to the nerves as that of dentistry, requiring, as it does, so much that must be classed as surgical work. Sixty years ago, before the use of anæsthetics, surgeons sometimes refused to perform operations that were considered best for the patient, simply because they could not bring themselves to endure the sight of the suffering they must cause. The dentist's work, much of it, causes so much suffering that he must have good nerve to be able to forget it sufficiently to do thorough work, therefore an important duty is the care of our health. A discussion of the way in which that duty can be fulfilled would exceed the limits of a paper like this. Suffice it to quote from Sec. 3: "The dentist should be temperate in all things, keeping both mind and body in the best possible health, that his patients may have the benefit of that clearness of judgment and skill which is their right." The dentist, if any one, should deserve and claim the title of gentleman; there is scarcely any subject in regard to which the general public shows such deplorable ignorance as in that of dentistry, yet each one must be met with politeness and patience, attention and consideration, all characteristics of a gentleman, if success is desired. So true is this that I unhesitatingly affirm, when I hear of a thoroughly successful dentist, he is a true gentleman. Our duty to each other seems an appropriate theme to consider here, since in that case any lapse from gentlemanly conduct cannot be excused on the ground of dealing with ignorance. It is the most natural thing in life for man to be more or less selfish—this, I am sorry to admit, is as prominently developed in the dentist as in men in other walks of life; but, while we are naturally selfish, there is no reason why we cannot teach ourselves to be charitable and just. We are all