

with high sounding names, by the artful empiric, for "*beautifying and preserving the teeth*," and aim to be conservators and not destroyers. But in doing this do not obtrude the subject into social circles, or in untimely seasons or places. It is not to be proclaimed from the house-top, nor preached in the drawing-room. There is a proper time and place for all things.

It is questionable in what way we can best educate or enlighten the public on this subject, except as we are brought into professional contact. In some localities it has been attempted through the public press, by articles written to suit the popular taste, in a way that may interest, and at the same time benefit them. That much good may be accomplished in this direction, there can be no doubt, by well written articles, not of a professional style or character, but of practical matters within the everyday life of all. There was an inducement for the members of this Society, to demonstrate to the public the position of the Society and the legal standing of the profession, by distributing to their patients the code of ethics and By-Laws, with an abstract of the State law, as printed by this Society. A large number supplied themselves at a trifling expense with copies for this purpose. Each in his locality, and in his own way, might fulfil an important mission, without self-aggrandizement, or making himself obnoxious to his brethren.

Up to April 7th, 1868, there was no law in this or any other of the United States to regulate the practice of dentistry, or indeed, any legal recognition. The Empire State was the first to grant this. This forms a new era in the history of dentistry; and, with our more elevated position, imposes on us enlarged duties. One of the first and most important, after individual qualification, is to sustain, elevate and carry forward all the features of this law, and the societies organized under it. This is necessary for the future good of our societies, for our profession, and for the perpetuity of the law, as well as for our individual benefit. In casting the mind's eye over the country, it becomes obvious that those who are foremost in promoting dental education, and in sustaining dental societies, are acknowledged to be the *representative men*, and are taking the highest position in reputation and practice; and secure the very best class of patients and the largest fees. Let there be a healthful rivalry spring up in this direction—not to stimulate the *absorbents* only, but the *exhalents* also. It is all important that every one should *give out* as well as *take*