

SYPHILITIC AFFECTIONS WITHIN THE SCOPE OF
DENTAL SURGERY.,

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MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN :—I noted last evening that a number of gentlemen spoke of “the profession” and “our profession,” evidently meaning those engaged in the practice of their specialty. To those phrases I decidedly take objection, there is no such thing as the “dental profession,” for you are surgeons practicing a specialty, and therefore you are legitimate members of the medical profession—said by Lord Bacon to be the most learned of all the faculties. Let me add that the dental art almost deserves to be styled a science, while the medical science hardly deserves to be called an art. I never send my patients to a “Dentist,” I always send them to a *Dental Surgeon*. Our President to-day spurned the idea of a “price for his work,” and—unconscionable fellow—wants “fees for his operations,” and I entirely agree with him. Away with the huckstering views which tend to degradation, and continue to advance the liberal ideas which tend to elevation and progress!

Compare for a moment the education of the dental surgeon with that of surgeons practicing other specialties. Say with the oculist, who is generally led like a stud-horse about the country, and who ekes out a questionable livelihood by peddling spectacles and glass eyes. Compare them with the aurists who are generally grossly ignorant of the very delicate and important organs on which they practice, and who do far more harm than good. *Don't* compare them with the venereal surgeon who gets his morals as well as his practice from his female patients.

There can be no doubt but that syphilitic affections frequently come under the notice of the dental surgeon, and, though this class of diseases may be familiar to most now present, it may be useful to review them.

Syphilis may be defined to be an infectious disease characterized by the presence of a virus which transmits it from one person to another by a period of incubation during which the poison is latent giving no external sign of its presence in the system, and by a certain degree