

in the estimation of the people, but, unfortunately as our numbers are increased we are aware of a lack of appreciation of dental skill. I wish our graduates were more grounded as to the true extent of their field of usefulness as professed benefactors of the human race.

I need not dwell upon the necessity for proper dentistry at the present time both as reference to this and future generations, for never did humanity call as loudly for the assistance of any profession as it does to ours to-day, it may be unconsciously and without appreciation of the true value of skillful dentistry either practically or in advice; but no dentist (if he honestly has the merit to be called such) is ignorant of the possibilities or probabilities of proper, intelligent dental skill as applied to the present generation.

I know the great and deplorable tendency of the people to-day is to gain, apparently, the *most* for the *least*, and so far has this tendency developed in some as to almost demand *all* for *nothing*; but even many in this latter, poor, misguided class, will gladly, willingly acknowledge in regard to the professions that the man who stands foremost, and whose fees are usually the highest, is the best and cheapest in the end, and if at all possible and within their means, will invariably consult him. What inference, then, can we, must we draw from this practical demonstration of acknowledgment of the superior value of the educated practitioner coming as it does from the very source and root of the general excuse for unprofessionalism? And I use this word this time in a somewhat restricted sense, for I only refer to ignorance in matters pertaining to dentistry, and I tell you it is entirely due to this lack of education in professional and moral principles that we hear so much of quackery and charlatanism. The man of worth can, and always will, overcome his unscrupulous and uneducated rival.

I am more inclined to favor a system that will advance educationalism among the members of the profession rather than one of denunciation of the fruits of their ignorance. I do not wish to pose as an exceptionally well-informed member of the dental profession, it need not necessarily be considered as an essential of one who can see defects in his profession; even the most devoted adherent of quackery can see and must acknowledge the advantage superior education would be to himself; how much more, then, would it be to professional dentistry?

Education is a power that may or may not be wielded for a beneficial purpose, and it is only as we thoroughly understand every phase of any certain condition that we are enabled to make the most of it, and again, it is only as we fully and intelligently recognize the necessity for it that we are going to place dentistry where it properly belongs,—the acknowledged sister science, and not a specialty, of medicine.

A thorough understanding of the principles of dentistry involves