

such a broad foundation, with so exalted a motive, the Dental Congress, as in fact are all of the congresses, is at once lifted beyond narrow sectional lines. The vexed questions respecting the status of dentistry in relation to medicine, which have resulted in divisions of opinion and the consequent formation of the class distinctions among dental practitioners, must necessarily become of secondary importance in relation to the Columbian Dental Congress, simply by reason of its fundamental animating motive, viz.: to set forth the condition of dental science and art as it exists at the time of holding the Congress. The very fact that diametrically opposite views are held as to the relations of dentistry and medicine furnishes, perhaps, one of the best arguments why such a Congress as is contemplated should be held. The opportunity thus afforded for discussing this important question in the presence and with the help of the ablest thinkers in dentistry from all parts of the world, must have a decided value in enabling us to arrive at a better and more accurate judgment upon the issue than would be possible under less favorable circumstances or by less efficient means; and this holds true with respect to the whole work of the Dental Congress. Further, the international character of the Congress, taken in connection with the broad, catholic foundation upon which it is based, must tend to a general levelling upward of our American dental ideals through the wholesome corrective influence of contact with the high scientific standards for which our transatlantic confreres are so eminently distinguished. The greatest advances which have been made during the world's history are those which, within the past century, have been due to the civilizing influence which is the direct outgrowth of the various means afforded by modern science for the rapid intercommunication of nations and peoples. It is the same principle of thought communication that, in a degree, holds good with respect to the positive educational value which appertains to the holding of these meetings. This influence upon the thought of the profession (including not only the practitioner, but the student) must be twofold, by reason of its educational effect upon the profession as a body, and especially upon those of its members who are teachers. The whole question of the constitution of the dental curriculum is dependent upon the character of the result which it is intended to produce; and if it should finally be determined