

it is of the greatest importance that every member, in future, will put aside all selfishness, jealousies, desire to utilize public functions for private benefit, and undue ambition to be distinguished above his brother, and that all, cordially and earnestly, both in a private and public capacity, endeavour to advance the interests of his profession. "Union is strength," and in order to maintain that element in our ranks, it is absolutely necessary that the few having control of the interests of the many, make no arbitrary or unjust aggressions on their rights, because if they do, resistance, disunion, and discord will surely arise, on the proper grounds that the Anglo-Saxon feels it to be not only a privilege, but a duty, to protect that which he obtained by the *Magna Charta*, and which he has cherished ever since.

In commencing this paper, Mr. President, I thought I would give a short history of Dentistry, but I found that I had not the resources at hand to do so, as my dental library, in combination with the earnings of twelve year's practice, pharmacologically or chemically speaking, were precipitated in the shape of ashes, not long since; besides I considered that anything like an elaborate history of dentistry, would make the article too long for an occasion of this kind. But I will, if it does not weary your patience too much, concisely sketch the progress of the Dental Art with the view of placing before you our position as a co-ordinate branch of the healing art. Like many other arts the origin of the practice of medicine is involved in obscurity. At a very early age the power to heal the sick, mitigate the pangs of suffering humanity, and stand between disease and death was considered a high attribute.

The ancients, who attached more importance to mythological than natural causes, impersonated medicine in Apollo and Esculapius, and thus its early history has been mixed up with mythology and poetry. Mankind has always, since the fall, been liable to pain and disease, but not nearly so much so in the state of primitive society as they have been since the advancement of civilization.

As they abandoned their more simple habits of living, for idleness, luxury, and vice, disease increased, and with it the need of the physician, and, according to Herodotus, there was a subdivision of medical science, and no practitioner was allowed to practice any but his own branch.

Thus, some were oculists, others attended to diseases of the head, and others to those of the teeth.

Many circumstances might be enumerated to show that dentistry enjoyed as large a share of the attention of the ancients as did any other branch of the healing art. Belzoni, and others, discovered manufactured teeth in the Sarcophagus of the Egyptians, but I question if they were as