

what their duty is to the dentist. Hence each dentist, in every near and remote part of the earth, by honorable conduct and by instructing his patients, will bring about those circumstances in which the capabilities of the profession may be increased.

Next let us turn our attention to the subject of advertising and discuss the results arising from false statements, claiming to do that which we do not, and be that which we are not. This is a state of affairs fraught with the most serious consequences to humanity, and consequently to the profession.

What shall be said of the dentist who advertises the best set of artificial teeth at such a price, that in order to obtain a mere existence so large a number of sets is rushed through that the work must be of a very inferior kind, and the finish most unseemly? Some one might suggest that such a one was performing a good service in so much as he was teaching the people, so unfortunate as to come under his care, to thoroughly understand the insufficiency of artificial dentures, and was thereby giving them a more lively sense of the necessity of preserving the natural teeth. This lesson is learned too late by the dupes, but their offspring may benefit thereby. Among the other objections to this argument is the fact that had these people patronized the advertiser for the purpose of preserving their teeth they would have had similarly disheartening results, and their children would be taught the folly of trying to preserve their teeth.

Now, what are we to learn from this? That the acts of unscrupulous men form a most serious obstacle to the progress of dentistry, and the diffusion of its blessings. The disastrous results of the acts of these men are further increased, because there are a class of people who, when they receive unsatisfactory services, blame the entire profession. The idea does not occur to them that there are differences in dentists—no, a dentist is a dentist. What a pity it is that such men cannot comprehend the wrong they are doing to their fellow-beings! If they do comprehend it, can they feel justified in gaining gold at the expense of the welfare of their fellowmen. Can they dare to reflect upon the results of their unworthy acts to those yet unborn? Is this mere theorizing? How gladly we might wish it were.

But how short-sighted a dentist must be not to perceive that this course of conduct is very injurious to himself. Can he hope that unsatisfactory work will bring him the means of cultivating his possibilities? He should know that if his operations are not adapted to these ends, his patients cannot be benefited, nor can they speak of his good services rendered to them. How does a man of this stamp recognize his good? All that can be said is that he does not recognize his duty to himself, to his profession, or to his patient.