

must be some demand for them, or do they create the demand? I hold the idea that every graduate in dentistry is by virtue of his qualification an educator. To the extent of his interpretation of the technical teachings of his college days, he must be responsible for his acts and manipulations, which must be reflected in time by the community either to his credit or damage.

If by a careful consideration of a certain case a satisfactory conclusion is arrived at, and a monument of skill and durability is the result, he has commenced to educate the community to his advantage. So according to his leading may he expect to find his patrons following, and if we find an isolated community given to false teeth, the chances are that the dentist is a rubber worker. In large communities we find all sorts and conditions of humanity, the rich and the poor, the educated and the ignorant, those from the rural districts and the city-bred; these call for different classes of the profession to deal with them. They differ in tastes and inclinations. One has the idea that false teeth are the perfection of life, another has a longing for lots of gold to show. Many let their teeth decay because it is cheaper to do so, and so on all through. There is a difficulty here in discriminating conscientiously, and yet there ought not to be. In rural districts, perhaps to a greater extent than in cities, the dentist may reflect his ideas more upon his patrons, for if he is the only representative he may be firm and decisive, argumentative and convincing in just the degree his inclination leads him. If he is an artist in rubber, false teeth is his line of argument, and I am afraid that frequently this result is from inability or indifference, and sometimes, perhaps, from the financial standpoint of the patient, and not from a correct measure of the state of the teeth. I apprehend that there is a tendency all over the country for improvement on the old method of sacrificing natural teeth, both on account of the effect of the superior education at present obtainable at our colleges, and the higher attainments in matriculants, and the good taste and ability to indulge it by the prosperous farmers and artisans, making up the various communities, and aside from individual cases which prove very little, there is a decided change for the better in the way of saving natural teeth.

It does not come within the province of this paper to discuss ways and means of saving teeth, or of the advisability of doing so under