

*esprit de corps* which should make us ONE in sympathy, in aim and progress—determined that the profession amongst us shall be second to none, not even to medicine; and that dentistry in this province, by the thoroughness, the accuracy and the progressive spirit of those engaged in it, shall be placed in the forefront of the profession on this continent. We have yet, perhaps, our reputation to make, but that it is in process of making I feel assured.

Gentlemen, I set before you a high ideal; one that can only be reached by each individual exerting himself to the utmost. We may be sure that we shall never win collectively while we are not prepared to do our best individually. Let us endeavor to work therefore as if *all* depended on each one, and let us uphold a high standard for our profession, in order that we may be able to be proud of it as a whole. To this end it will be necessary that we keep our minds open to the reception of new *ideas*, that we never for a moment allow ourselves to rest satisfied with what we have already gained. As has been said of the ideal life in morals, so I would say of our profession: "To stand still is to stagnate, to cease to advance is to begin to retrograde." I believe in a future for our profession. It depends very much upon ourselves whether we are content to remain as we are, or to press forward until we receive the recognition due to a calling in which learning, skill, and patience are prime factors. We ought to be a body of so much importance that no university could afford to ignore us. To this end let us try to overlook any points of disagreement and work together for the common good. For it is only by presenting a united and harmonious front that we can hope to win the respect of the public. Differences of opinion as to matters of detail there are sure to be; but that we are all united in our desire for the advancement of our chosen profession there is no doubt. Our College is an infant only three years old, and it is not surprising, therefore, if it has not gone forward at the rapid pace that we could wish; but this year the prospects are greatly brighter, and I think we may safely prophesy a real and substantial advancement over any former year. Not that I would for a moment seem to despise what has been done in past years. Gentlemen, the College and its staff, imperfect though they may have been as to equipment and methods, were *vastly better* than the former regime, whereby the dental student, so-called, was simply an apprentice for the manufacture of rubber plates, and obtained his slim knowledge of operating by occasionally torturing a charity case from among his preceptor's patients. Let us not "despise the day of small things." "Tall oaks from little acorns grow," and although the signs of life have not been as vigorous as some of our more progressive friends demanded, yet there are many indications that we have passed the most difficult and dangerous years of our existence, and that the future will be brighter.