

would be counted worthy of ostracism by his confreres and of boycotting by the public.

The lawyer who is proven guilty of a like treason to his clients is, in legal phraseology, "stripped of his gown."

The dentist, professional man though he may claim to be, will too often, I fear, be such a sordid soul as to forget the best interests of his *clientele* and give the advice that will (for the time being at least) increase his bank account. I have for some time been of the opinion that before we can claim to be a profession, without blushing for the shortcomings of many that are continually before the public eye, there should be provided by our statutes machinery by which a licentiate of dentistry could, on proof of having been guilty of glaringly unprofessional or grossly immoral conduct, be deprived of his license. This power, in the hands of our judicious Board, would be a weapon the usefulness of which would soon become apparent.

As things stand at present, a man, once possessed of a license to practice, may defy the powers that be, and degrade the profession to the dust. This provision would be a protection not only to the profession but also to the public, for men such as need this drastic treatment live largely by fleecing and gulling the public. You may say, as is sometimes said, that the public love to be humbugged, yet it is true that they should have protection.

The reactionary effect of this mercenary treatment of the public is seen, I am sure, by every one of us in the distrust of our motives evinced by some of our patients. Perhaps we mildly suggest to some one that presents, that certain teeth should be filled instead of being sacrificed by extraction, when we are met with an incredulous sneer. They know all about that, so-and-so filled their teeth or their neighbor's teeth and it only stayed in a week, and some of it fell out on the way home. How often you are met with the painful reality that your patient does not believe what you are advising is for their good but solely and purely for your own.

Another thing that has struck me as anomalous in dentistry is that so many men lack the spirit of professional courtesy that prompts us to be helpful to each other and render each other any assistance in our power. In the days when the dentist's education was obtained in a few months' apprenticeship in the office of a practitioner, it was not to be wondered at that his laboratory was kept under lock and key, lest another should learn his secrets and outstep him in the race for wealth.

These were transition days, but even then we had noble examples of men who generously gave the results of their skill and researches to their brother dentists. Parenthetically, let it be noted here that these are the men whose names are handed down in the archives of our profession.