

"Every man is a debtor to his profession." He owes it for whatever honor it confers upon him, and for whatever emolument it brings him. It is his duty to make some return—to endeavor to pay something on account of a debt which he cannot hope to settle. To do this he must fraternize with his professional brethren, give them the benefit of his researches and ideas, assist them to carry on the work of proper organization, and try to leave the world a little the better off for his having been in it. The graduate who buries himself in his office, refusing to aid or be aided, may think that he is showing his independence, but he is in error, he merely proclaims to the world that he is willing to reap benefits unearned, and become a further pensioner upon the labors of his fellow men. The too common prevalence of such men is a heavy drag on progress, and strange to say, that while being borne along on the shoulders of others, they cavil and grumble because things are not absolutely perfect.

There are several causes which combine to injure our profession. First the indifference and selfishness of those who refuse to contribute to the general good by their presence and assistance at our professional gatherings; secondly, those who make everything subordinate to the getting of money by extortion, haggling and cutting according to opportunity; and thirdly, a class, fortunately small, of men who by a combination of causes are pitchforked into a profession whose ethics are beyond their mean conception, and whose ideas and tastes fit them only for a most menial occupation.

From these three classes are furnished the charlatans, cheap jacks and sore-heads. These are the men who reap the benefit of our united labors. This we cannot help. If, in our struggle for higher and better things, we benefit a few that are undeserving we must not begrudge it, for upon them and not upon us falls the dishonor.

Having briefly considered the position which should be occupied by dentistry in the profession, and the position it does at present hold, as well as hinting at the retrogressive elements, it may be well to make reference to some means by which the evils may be lessened and the profession advanced toward that ideal that is ever present to those who have its progress and welfare at heart.

Improvement must begin with the individual, in what manner and to what extent each must decide for himself. Most of the men connected with the various Associations are doing their utmost in this direction already.

The difficulty lies in reaching those who are retrogressive. We cannot address them in the Association, nor have we time to make a personal canvass; besides a personal canvass would make them place too great a value on themselves.

They would boast of their being run after. The only means of reaching them is through the general public. We should have a