

she may be wondering whether it was one of his this year's patients or last. Then upon taking the chair (if she has had the courage to remain that long) before her is exhibited all the instruments of which the dentist is the owner. There they are in all varieties, some crooked, and some straight, some clean and some not clean. This display of polished steel and silver may have a pleasing effect to the eye of the dentist, but how hideous to the patient. I believe, in furnishing our reception rooms, we should avoid all appearance of anything that would remind our patients in an unpleasant way of the operations that are before them. Let the rooms be made homelike, and pleasing to the eye. This has the effect of making them forget a great deal of the dread with which they came. In the office (I say office, for I don't like the name surgery) let the instruments, as far as possible, be concealed from view, especially when the patient takes the chair. Avoid as much as possible the odor of drugs in the room. As to the personal appearance of the dentist it may not be necessary for me to even hint at, so much has been said on the subject, and the importance of absolute cleanliness must be so evident to every dental practitioner. However, we have to be continually reminding ourselves of these things, and the danger is not that they will be over observed, but that our work may so absorb our attention that we become careless and indifferent. When I see a dentist with spots of tobacco juice on his shirt front, and traces of soup down the front of his vest (which I regret to say I have seen) it makes me feel, after all, that a reminder of this sort need not be prefaced with an apology. Money invested in a laundry bill will yield good interest. It might seem like fiction to members of this society to say there are those in the profession to-day who will go from one patient to another without even washing their hands or cleaning their instruments. It is the truth nevertheless. To set the mind of the patient at rest on this point, I think the hands should always be washed in their presence.

Just a word in regard to sympathy towards our patients. I believe there is an inclination for most dentists, as they increase in experience, to decrease in sympathy—become hardened as it were. I shall never forget an incident in my own experience when I was a small boy. I was living in the country and no dentist near. Suffering with toothache, I was sent to the family physician to have my tooth extracted. I walked into his office, I presume, in much the same condition of mind as a man goes to the gallows. I was placed upon a high stool while the old doctor wound some pieces of cotton cloth around the old-fashioned turnkey, preparing for the operation. I cannot describe in words my feelings during this awful time of suspense, but one thing hurt me more than all, and seemed to make me loathe the man: that was his cold-blooded