

direct and educate them, as best we can, in matters pertaining to the teeth: and, in every way, aim to elevate the standard of our profession. To accomplish all this, we must first keep ourselves well posted in the general news and literature of the day, as well as being familiar with the standard works and literature of dentistry; keeping our offices well supplied with dental periodicals, for their eye as well as our own; and gathering the rich harvest of practical items from dental associations; and, in fact, always being students.

The best way to guard the public against impositions in dentistry, as well as to protect ourselves, is not to encourage or manufacture and send out, to prey upon their cupidity and their purse, and bring reproach upon us, *half-fledged* dentists—men who have served a few weeks, or perhaps a few months, not of *pupilage*, but of *apprenticeship*; men utterly incompetent to deal with disease, or living tissue. By aiding this sort of practice we belie our claim to the term *profession*, and reduce our vocation to the cheapest sort of a *trade*. We sometimes hear dentists speak of serving an *apprenticeship*, or taking an *apprentice*. Perhaps the terms are most appropriate to them, if they have never studied the books, or regarded dentistry only in the light of manual labour. Under the new responsibilities imposed on us by the present law regulating the practice of dentistry, elevating us nominally into the professions, let us discharge this duty well—especially every member of this Society—by refusing to take into our offices uneducated persons; and none for anything less than a *pupilage* for the term of years as named in the law, and, if possible, make it a point to secure lectures and a graduation in a dental college. This course will, before another decade passes, rid the community of cheap dentistry and cheap dentists,—will secure for ours the position of a *learned profession*, and the public first-rate operators.

We should always be ready to give proper advice as to *hygienic dentistry*—I give it this term—so as to secure a perfect development of teeth. The prevention of deformity or disease, is of more importance than its treatment. “An ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure.” Give modestly, information as to the proper time of the formation and the proper aliment of the dental organism, the care and treatment of the deciduous teeth, with reference not only to their health and preservation, but to the regularity and strength of the permanent ones. Give intelligent advice to all as to their general care, the avoidance of all nostrums clothed