

their fellow-practitioners? Do they generally succeed? If individually successful, is it permanent, and what effect has it and will it have on the standard of the profession? Does the modern dental practitioner command as much respect from his patients as the dentist of forty years ago? Let the old practitioner answer. A noticeable difference is in the attitude of the public. The general public enter a dental office now with no more deference than when entering a shoe shop! They price the *goods* and comment on the different makers of material; no doubt the youthful, isolated dentist has imparted all the information voluntarily, and has educated the *customer* how to discriminate between the goods he offers and those of the other fellow across the way. The people have become posted and will not be bamboozled. Of course this applies only to the shopping class, still the custom is noticeably spreading among the more intelligent.

The professional standing is being lowered by the individual acts of unscrupulous dentists, who desire to monopolize the practice of the community in which they exist. It may be, perhaps, that some are induced to isolate themselves from associations, so as not to be in company with some *plebian* dentist! Whatever is the cause, the results are regrettable. The one great factor for elevating the standing of the profession, as a whole, is sadly neglected. The united efforts of the best minds would no doubt render nefarious the conduct of the reckless dentist, and compel *all* to join the faithful fold (*millennium*). Certainly individual action on the part of honorable dentists retards general disaster, but united action would be more effective. Well, what are you going to do about it? I anxiously await your discussion on the subject.

May you have a large and profitable meeting, and may the results prove a stimulus to greater activity among a greater number.

ELEMENTS OF DENTISTRY.*

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In bringing before you the contents of this paper I have a desire more to consider the elements of dentistry in its broadest sense rather than in the narrow, and, I regret to say, narrowing sense of the dentists' duties. While noting the fact that so many of the profession are looking upon dentistry merely as a means to obtain a livelihood, I am glad, at the same time, to note also in others a growing spirit of true professionalism, and that for so long this spirit has enabled the profession to maintain a respectable status

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