

These and kindred ideas are insinuated to the patient, without any special dentist being named, in such a manner as to assign to the dentist an ability superior to that possessed by the other members of the profession. No endeavor is made to ascertain the cause, or causes, which led to the use of cement as a filling material; rather the idea is inculcated that no cause but inability or greed would warrant its use. Here we have a case of manifest deceit upon the part of the dentist. This man is not fulfilling his capabilities; he is not educating the patient who has come to him. At the expense of the profession he thinks he is advancing his own interest. He is, indeed, injuring the profession, inasmuch as he conveys the idea that it is composed of many unworthy men. He is not advancing his own welfare, in so far as he teaches that he is one of a body of men that knows little of its profession. He is causing a retrograde in humanity, in so far as he causes a patient to leave his office with a doubtful idea of the ability of dentists. The patient will communicate his thoughts to others; these others will question the wisdom of trusting themselves to dentists. As a result, after much suffering, they will lose their teeth, impair their digestion, and thus unfit themselves for exercising their capacities to the utmost extent.

Now, on the other hand, what would be the probable result of the opposite course of conduct on the part of the dentist in relation to the patient, to the profession, and to the patient? If the patient is told that the tooth requires another cement filling, or that a more durable one may now be put in, and also that he has neglected his teeth to a serious extent in not having them more promptly attended to, he will be convinced that he must blame himself for his loss. If in the course of the consultation the fact is elicited that the patient was warned to return for an examination of his teeth, then a very favorable opportunity is presented to impress upon the patient the necessity of paying due heed to the advice of the dentist. Will he think less of the dentist because the latter has pointed out to him in what respect he has been remiss in his duty; how he has failed to give the former operator an opportunity to do his best for his patient? On the contrary he will have much more respect for a profession that has attained to such perfection that the different members of it agree in their conclusions. After having received again the admonition to attend to his teeth, and having had a practical exemplification of the injury resulting from the failure to do so, he will be hereafter more intelligent, and in the ordinary course of events will impart his knowledge to others. He will impress upon them the necessity of avoiding the errors he made. Thus having fulfilled his functions, the dentist has increased the capabilities of the profession by educating the people to know what may be done for them, and.