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Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, and Fellow Members of the Dental Profession,—In thus addressing the members of this class as fellow members of the dental profession, I have a definite object in view. I wish at the outset to impress upon you the fact that, so far as your obligations are concerned—so far as your status in the affairs of men, your responsibilities and your relations to the world at large—you are as much an integral part of the dental profession this moment as is the oldest practitioner in existence. If you can start out upon your professional career with a sufficiently exalted conception of the basal ideas of professional responsibility and professional character, if you can grasp that intricate, but tangible, distinction which classifies you apart from the mere mechanic or tradesman and places you in a more intimate and exacting relationship with your fellow-man, then that realization, I am free to believe, may mean much, not only for your own future, but for the future of the profession in Ontario.

I have frequently been impressed with the seeming failure on the part of young men just entering the profession to appreciate the full significance of what a professional life should mean. Some one has truly said that the difference between a professional man and a tradesman is that the one deals with persons while the other deals with things, and that consequently a profession is just as much greater than a trade as persons are greater than things. In this comparison there is no intimation whatever that a trade is not a perfectly honorable calling. A tradesman may be a man entitled to the highest respect of his fellow-man. He may be a good

* Delivered to the graduating class of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons, Toronto, April 27th, 1900.