

not likely that those who are regarded by their confreres with that distrust which denies them admission even to voluntary professional societies, control the skill or the tact which ethical men aspire to possess. There is much in modern dentistry, as in medicine and surgery, which, in the hands of the incompetent or ignorant, is dangerous to health and life itself. It may be as well to say here, *en passant*, that no respectable dentist ignores claims upon his professional philanthropy, and that there are no financial circumstances, however humble, which cannot be met by honest and ethical practitioners, either in their own practice or in the case of the deserving poor in the infirmary of this College.

At its best, dentistry to-day is circumscribed in its practice. It is the poorest paid of any of the professions for its best, and the highest paid for its worst. It exceeds any other profession, none excepted, in the cost of its maintenance. The temptations in it to deceive are intensified by the credulity of many of its patrons. It has no such financial collateral opportunities as other professions enjoy. There is no public promotion or public reward for anything its members can supply. It has gratuitously served the poor in this city for half a century in the practical philanthropy of its practitioners, in their own offices, in lieu of any public infirmary. The students of this College, under the direction of a staff of our best dentists, have attended to over a thousand patients, solely at the expense of a very few of the dentists themselves. We have never asked for or received one dollar of public aid that we might better equip this school, and better serve the poor, and, I imagine, we are not more respected for our modesty. The profession is over-crowded, and the natural results are in evidence in the depreciation of fees, and the increase of professional cost of practice, and, no doubt, if the public appreciation of the teeth in this Province is not more enlarged, we will by and by be able to say of the dentists, as was said of the English curate, that they are the best educated paupers in the country.

We at least know the importance of our profession, and have some faith in its future. If we had not we would close this school. The condition of the teeth *per se*, especially the teeth of children; the many known and unknown, to the public, local diseases, caused by dental disease; the constitutional, and especially the nervous affections directly due to diseased teeth, give wide scope for practice. Her Majesty the Queen once said to her household dentist, Sir Edwin Saunders: "Yours is a very important profession, for while some need the skill of the oculist and aurist, almost all need that of the dentist." If the public, and physicians especially, fully appreciated this fact, the services we are able to render would be better known and earlier sought, and the allurements of sensational advertising would have less effect. We are all more or less