

If he has a great heart and a small conscience he will be unduly sympathetic and afraid of causing the necessary discomfort and pain essential to a thorough operation. Or, on the other hand, if the conscience be fully developed and the sympathetic nature small, he will do splendid work, work which will save the teeth of those who have the fortitude to bear the suffering he will require of them.

Of the two extremes the latter is undoubtedly preferable, but neither will attain that high degree of success which he attains who possesses in his composition these elements nicely balanced. Some one has well said, "There are three ways you may try; there are three interests you have to consider; and it will depend upon the order in which you consider them how success will be measured out to you.

"The first interest is your own, and it may seem to you the greatest, while it is really the least. The second interest is truly greater, for it is the interest of your professional brothers; but the last is the greatest of all, for it is the interest of your patient, and with that is eternally related the interest of the art you practise."

The interest of the patient then should be our first consideration when he or she presents himself or herself for our examination and advice. It is here that our conscience should have full play.

We have many things to consider and in a measure decide, such as the physical ability of our patient to endure a certain operation, her financial ability to compensate us for it, our own ability to properly perform it, and what under all the circumstances of the case would be best for our patient.

To extract a tooth which, by reasonable care, skill, and patience on our part, and a willingness on the part of the patient to bear the necessary discomfort and give us a suitable fee for our services, could be saved, is in the highest degree reprehensible.

The sterilizing of instruments. How much that is important and far reaching is contained in these four words! How much of happiness or misery, life or death even they may contain, according as they are observed or neglected.

To use mouth mirrors, forceps, trays, rubber dam, burs, and other instruments in the mouths of different patients without first thoroughly cleansing and sterilizing cannot be too severely condemned.

When we think what a hot-bed of germ-life the mouth is and the seeming carelessness of so many dentists, we wonder that diseases are not more often than they are communicated in this way. I have been amazed when visiting dental offices to see forceps put back in the case without any attempt being made to cleanse them. And how often are burs and excavators used without cleansing and without the dam. It seems to me that the