

There is no calling unless it is that of medicine, where greater purity of character, and a higher standard of morals are necessary. Wives, daughters and children are entrusted to our care in long and repeated visits.

We should be gentle in our deportment, and cleanly in our persons and office. We can judge full well of the nauseating effects of the foul breath that we so often meet in our patients, but we cannot judge always of our own, especially under the use of tobacco and liquors. If they are used by the dentist, the fumes should never reach the operating room, or be carried over the chair, to regale the nostrils of a patient. The appointments of the room should be attractive, and especially about the chair—napkins, instruments, and the *fingers* should be scrupulously clean; everything free from the appearance of blood stains from a recent operation, or the spittoon from exhalations of decomposition. Never go from one patient to another without first washing the hands. The office, instruments and *personnel* of the man, tell the patient at once whether he is a gentleman of refinement or not. It is due to himself, to his patients, and to the honor of the profession that all these are as perfect and cleanly as possible; besides, it is a good investment, and pays a handsome return.

The milk of human kindness should be dealt out freely. Patients come to us in suffering, and for painful operations; and under peculiar nervous excitement. Many of our operations seem like butchery, but when tempered with kindness and sympathy, they are borne even by the timid with fortitude. We find in that cheap commodity, a great panacea; and, by its free use, we are often enabled to make a good operation; when by a rough, austere demeanor, we would utterly fail. From the temperament and disposition of some patients, firmness and even authority may sometimes seem necessary; but it should be so tempered with tenderness and condescension as to inspire in them respect and confidence. While they expect to give us pecuniary reward, they expect in return to find a well educated mind that will readily comprehend the needs, diagnose correctly, and execute perfectly—not to pass over the case merely for the amount of money we may get; but, while we have an eye to that, to give them the greatest amount of good, and the least possible pain or annoyance.

We owe to the public, not only the duties of being good citizens, sustaining the various social relations of life, and sharing in the burthens and responsibilities of public enterprises and institutions, but to especially guard them against impositions in dentistry, to