

the institutes of medicine to his art, while the other, like Talleyrand's doctor, "knew a little of everything, even a little physic," with all my love for breadth of culture, I should assuredly consult the latter.'

"But in real life we are not called upon to make this choice; the man who is greedy of learning in his own special line is rarely—I may say, never—content to be ill-informed outside it. But supposing our young aspirant to start fully equipped with such knowledge as the schools can give him, his success is not yet fully assured, and there are certain qualities, like all qualities capable of improvement by cultivation, which will serve him in good stead. He must have nerve; not perhaps the nerve of the surgeon in whose hands lie the issues of life and death, but a certain steadiness of nerve which will enable him in the face of his special difficulties to be fully master of all the skill which he possesses, and this will go far towards securing the confidence of his patients. He must be painstaking, for it is in attention to *minutiae* that, just as in modern surgery, the difference between success and failure lies; he must be patient, too, in dealing with all the little obstacles which crop up. And he must have tact and a quick judgment of the idiosyncrasies of his patient, which he must be both quick to appreciate, and, within proper limits, to bend to. For the very nature of our work precludes the possibility of the patient being able to judge even of results, except by the test of time, far less of what is best to be done for him, so that the dentist has ample opportunity for the exercise of all his discretion in knowing when to give way to his patient, and when to fight out his little battle in the patient's own interest. And it is very desirable that he should cultivate a thoroughly kind and friendly feeling towards those who honor him with their confidence—I say cultivate, because I believe that such a habit of mind is strengthened by use, and that it is just as easy to entertain a friendly feeling towards those to whom we are able to render service, as it lies deep down in imperfect human nature to dislike those whom we have in any way injured. He must have a good physique; his work is hour after hour exhausting in a degree that no one who has not tried it can appreciate. With busy practice comes another difficulty, and that is to avoid being hurried, and to keep for each patient time enough to do him justice. There is no temptation for the busy dentist to spend one moment more than is absolutely necessary over his work; on the contrary, there is a very strong temptation in the other direction, as it becomes very difficult to satisfy all those who wish to be seen, and who do not realize that dental operations take so long that it is rarely possible for the dentist, as it sometimes may be for the medical man, to squeeze in another patient when his appointment book is full. So that a good deal of moral firmness is needed every day to keep the dentist out of this pitfall. And he has all the more need of