

fifty cents, will extract a child's tooth two years too early, and thus entail upon the unhappy subject of his malpractice, pain and deformity, these lines will come most obnoxiously ; but to him who, being a dentist, does not forget that he is also a man, and who does not cease to remember that to alleviate pain is the true destiny of his calling, and that his recompense is only secondary, they will perhaps carry something of the intention with which they are written. With this belief, I proceed to examine into the merits of my subject, "The duty of dentists towards parents in reference to children."

It is not only the duty, but the true interest of every dentist to, as far as possible, educate his patients to perform properly their own part in reference to their teeth and those of children placed under their care. Every practicing dentist will bear witness that the profession receives more trouble, and more really laborious and disagreeable tasks, from patients who are entirely and (may I say?) criminally ignorant of the first principles of human physiology and anatomy, than from those who have a good general idea of how they are formed, and know when an operation upon the teeth is really needed, and will not insist upon its performance when not necessary. Such persons having charge of children are careful to watch the formation and growth of their teeth, and at the proper time to bring them before the professional dentist for examination, and, if necessary for operation ; while they have no whims as to the imminent necessity that every tooth should be extracted the moment it aches ; and so they relieve the dentist from all external annoyance, leaving him to use his own judgment and care in the case.

They should be made to understand that the regular and proper development of the permanent teeth depends somewhat upon proper care being taken of the temporary set ; they should be told that of the temporary teeth, there are four incisors, two cuspidati, and four molars in each jaw ; which are finally replaced by the permanent set, beginning at the sixth year and continuing until the fourteenth year, when the permanent set is complete, with the exception of the dentes sapientiae which appear between the eighteenth and fortieth year.

It will then become necessary to explain and instruct as to the manner in which the permanent set succeeds the temporary ; they must be told that the germs of the permanent teeth are situated under the temporary, and in the process of their growth constant absorption is taking place, until the roots of the temporary have been entirely absorbed, the permanent teeth meanwhile steadily fol-