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## Original Communications

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### DENTAL ETHICS.—(CONCLUDED )

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Next let us consider our duties to the profession. In discussing this part of the subject, it is also necessary to keep in mind the conclusion to which we came in the former part of the treatise, namely, that the good of man consisted in the fulfilling of his capabilities; and also to remember, as it has been shown in the preceding pages, that the fulfilling of these capabilities is possible only to the extent that the opportunities for fulfilling them are afforded. The desires of a particular set of men must not be allowed to take precedence to the good of the community. To live together in harmony each one must respect the rights of the other. These rights are not respected if we prevent others in their endeavor to do their best. This best may be in the treatment of a patient whose teeth demand, we will say, cement fillings. We will suppose a case in which cement has been used, and the patient cautioned to return at stated intervals to have his teeth examined. The patient promises but does not keep his word. The fillings dissolve, with the consequent loss of tooth structure. The patient, perhaps from a sense of shame in having violated his word, perhaps on account of his removal to a distance, or for some other reason, visits another dentist. The latter informs him that all the trouble is due to the use of cement, whereas gold would have obviated the trouble. Much may be said and more hinted concerning the roguery of the practice of inserting such fillings. The patient is (we will suppose) finally convinced that the present dentist is very honest and very clever, and that the former dentist is very dishonest, very ignorant, and incapable of putting in a gold filling