

the importance of their best skill, but are simply conducted as a business enterprise. Men whose influences are needed to remove these evils, never stoop from their exalted positions to consider the harm done to the profession they are apparently so much endeavoring to elevate. Months of education is required to offset the evil influence of a day, upon those naturally weak in the doctrine of ethics, and much individual, honest effort is necessary to remove the distrust of the public mind.

If it were not a fact that the eyes of the public were kept in darkness concerning the happenings of those places owing to the bountiful revenue contributed to the daily press they could not possibly exist.

Think of the health department interfering with the prayers of Dr. Dowie on ethical exceptions, and allowing such dental parlors to flourish unmolested. Here is an opportunity for some one to promote our ethics, and at the same time become a benefactor.

Abuses are not alone confined to this lower strata of the profession. A common evil among the "upper crust" is in daily practice in the form of exorbitant fees.

The evil in this respect is greater and more dishonorable than in the case of the dental parlor man, from the fact that the class of men in question are of a different type, whose intelligence, and knowledge of values, tell him that the transaction with his dentist was dishonest and is a means of breeding distrust, in destroying the ethical relation between the public and profession, which is of far more importance than that between men of the same profession.

The result of experiences of the above nature can be seen when individuals take up the daily papers and scan the columns for rates on dentistry, pass from the sublime to the ridiculous as it were, take chances with the fates in preference to submitting to an unjust fee.

I do not believe much in technical ethics; different writers upon this subject, draw the line of demarcation between professions too sharply; as, in the case of the city dentist accusing the country physician of a breach of ethics because he extracted an aching tooth for his neighbor; or, on the other hand, the physician censuring the dentist for advising a remedy for the cure of sick headache, or wiping a chunk of soot from a patient's eye. This is not what is meant by higher ethics, but finds its application in the rules and regulations of labor unions. We should be far beyond any such petty jealousies, place our aim higher, show to the world that we are public benefactors, be honest with each other in all our dealings and carry out to the letter what is implied by the Golden Rule.