

Empiricism simply collects facts and pursues a certain course based upon the doctrine of cause and effect without a knowledge of the scientific reasons for said effects. Now, our mode of practising dentistry differs from the style of treatment pursued by the dentists of fifty years ago, in that we call to our aid the discoveries of science in recent years. Teeth are now saved which a few years ago would have fallen a prey to the forceps, and have been replaced by substitutes on a plate which generally works incalculable injury to the adjacent natural organs. Dr. Talbot declares that dentistry has about reached the limit of its growth in the so-called practical direction, and that henceforth its development must go forward on more scientific lines. Those who imagine that the scientific method is not making its way in the dental profession are not closely observant of the changes of the past fifteen years. What is the antiseptic treatment of root canals or the injection of pyorrhœa pockets, but the application of science to dentistry? So it is also in other cases of treatment. Our dental educators are alive to the forward movement, and are placing before our students the latest inventions and discoveries, and endeavoring to have every subject taught in an up-to-date manner. Our journals vie with each other in securing the choicest selections from the writings of the ablest professional men, and I can safely say no profession has made more rapid strides towards improvement than dentistry. The standard of matriculation in Ontario is now such that every student entering an office to study dentistry is well fitted to begin the higher education. His mind is developed so he can grasp an idea, whether presented to him orally or clinically, and if he possesses the proper amount of mechanical ability he should become a good dentist.

Through science, the dental profession is fast becoming a body of scientific men, men who are raising the honor and dignity of the profession, but, notwithstanding all this, there are not wanting men who are willing to sink everything into the mire dirt and with the hope of getting business which their skill as workmen would never attract. I appeal to every preceptor who has a student under his tuition to instill into his mind dignified ideas of his life-work.

Frequently when recent graduates begin practice in a town or city, and find it slow work building up a reputable business, they become impatient and advertise extracting without pain or cheap plates, or some other bait to catch the public who are always too ready to try something new, even if it has little merit. Sometimes the history of competition is the reverse, and the older practitioners are the first to lower the honor and dignity of the profession. In either case, such procedure results only in injury to both parties and to the profession at large.

The object of this society must be the mutual improvement of