And whilst this subject is one of general interest, and its application must rest, to a great extent, with the people themselves, yet, the duty of influencing the public mind to a higher appreciation of the principles of dental hygiene, devolves upon the members of our profession.

And every dentist who entertains just conceptions of the responsibility of his calling, and who recognises his first duty as being towards his patients, will ever be influenced with the necessity of exercising his highest abilities, in response to the loud calls upon our science, to arrest an evil of such magnitude as that of the destruction of the teeth.

The rapid advancement of our science during the last quarter of a century, within which period it has attained to the position of a profession, has enabled its advocates to remove, to some extent, the erroneous impressions previously entertained by many, that the teeth are mere *appendages* of the body, to be sacrificed at the caprice of the patient. But there is yet much to accomplish, on the part of the members of the dental profession, ere the public will accord a proper recognition of the benefits it confers, or that we can ever hope to receive for our services a just recompense of reward.

Now, in the application of hygienic principles to the teeth, it is necessary to bear in mind that in their physiological relations, as well as in their physical constitution, they are subject to the same laws that regulate the various other departments of the physical organism. Thus they originate like all other organized animal structures, from the simple cell germ, and advance throughout the successive periods of their formation, in accordance with the invariable laws of natural life; receiving through the blood the elements of their construction, and depending upon the influence of the nervous system for their power of growth. And by these intimate relations to the vital forces of life, they are in the earlier stages of their development especially, just as susceptible to the influences that disturb these forces, as many of the other solid structures of the body.

And any interference during growth of the supply of the essential constituents of their organization, either by severe physical prostration, during which the nutritive process is interrupted, or by the non-nutritious character of the food, must necessarily exert a prejudicial influence either upon the density or uniformity of their structures.

That the density of these organs is frequently impaired, in early childhood, needs no further proof than the readiness with which they yield to the destructive force of agents with which they are brought in contact. And we have frequent and unmistakable evidence of the influence of diseases of the system upon their uniformity, in the peculiar