

That dentistry may lay claim to rank with the learned professions is admitted by all who have knowledge of the educational requirements of the modern dentist.

If a knowledge of anatomy, physiology, surgery, chemistry, pathology, histology, metallurgy, bacteriology, materia medica and therapeutics do not constitute higher education, then is the specialist in medicine in as bad a predicament as the dentist, for the dentist has a knowledge of all these subjects.

The teeth are fully as important to and as intimately connected with the human body as are the ear, eye, nose and throat, and a knowledge of the diseases of the teeth requires as complete an acquaintance with the general system as does that of the diseases of other organs.

At no period in the history of the evolution of the race have the teeth been of such paramount importance, for they of all organs seem to have suffered most from the methods and conditions of civilization. The other organs being more vascular, have adapted themselves more readily to new conditions, suffering little; but the teeth, owing to their greater solidity, have been unable to keep pace with the rapid change of environment.

Other organs for the most part have been required to do a more varied and greater amount of work, which increased use has hastened their development, but the advance of civilization tends to throw less exercise upon the teeth, consequently they weaken and fall into decay. The civilized portion of the race, dazzled by the rapid strides along the line of labor-saving machinery, has in the recent past, taken too extensively to soft and easily prepared foods, for which error the present and rising generations are reaping a harvest of misery.

It is of the utmost importance that the teeth be assisted and preserved through this, the time of their weakness, until more sensible methods of feeding re-develop them to the required standard of excellence.

Owing to the great hygienic and sanitary advancement of the past decade, statistics show that the average duration of human life is slightly on the increase.

This lengthening of life means better average health, and better health means improved development of the teeth.

The preservation of these important organs, until such time as they begin to reap the benefit of improved conditions, is the duty of the dental surgeon.

Does not this vital and most important charge entitle him to the respect and consideration of sister professions?

Does it not entitle him to the confidence of the community in which he labors? Does it not entitle him to a place amongst the benefactors of the human race? The speaker believes in his pro-