

tainly it is sometimes a difficult matter to solve. The indications strongly point to the patient being pampered and spoiled either by the special indulgence or want of self-confidence in her former dentist. Just how to give such a patient to understand that such a directory manner on her part is entirely out of place, is a problem that each practitioner must settle for himself. Certainly, if the dentist be of the right professional material and possessed of sufficient confidence and ability, most such refractory patients will not be long in being educated to the knowledge of their proper behavior in the dental chair.

We might go on multiplying these examples that daily come to us from a badly-educated public; but enough has been said to show us where we stand and whither there is danger of us drifting. Yet each practitioner, wherever he may be placed, has the opportunity of training for himself, if he be possessed of the proper professional spirit, a class of patients who will daily manifest to him such general respect and professional confidence that will make his hourly tasks more genial and full of sunshine than they otherwise would be.

But there is another part of this subject that I am not willing to overlook. The dentist, in his usual round of probing, drilling and burnishing, should ever show towards his patient a spirit of practical sympathy. Once your victim fully understands that in every thrust and twinge of pain you are fully alive to the fact that you are operating on live tissue, you will have gone a long way in winning her confidence and making of her a lasting friend. How naturally we become more and more hardened as we grow older and busier in the work! How we soon come to drill and burr into a sensitive tooth with the same cold deliberation we might show in drilling into so much wood and stone! How apt we are, especially in our busier moments, to become irritable and impatient if the poor cringing and terrified creature, when taking the chair on the first occasion, is occupying too much of our precious time in getting over her paroxysm of fear and mustering sufficient courage to open wide her mouth. Let me tell you, the best practical lesson I, for one, get in exercising more patience in such cases is once in a while occupying the chair myself. No doubt, we are liable to become so absorbed in the success or failure of the operation in hand that we, for the time being, lose sight of the sufferings of the patient. In this respect I think mistakes are frequently made which prove far-reaching in their effects; for example: a young girl of fifteen is in the dental chair for the first time, and the operation in hand is a gold-filling. The dentist has his whole mind occupied in the completing a perfect operation, and after an hour's patient toil on his part, accompanied throughout by moanings, pleadings and hysterical sobs from the patient, the operation is