

members, but remuneration for services will be governed not by the value of the services rendered so much as by the demand and supply of the servants; already we are feeling this in the dental profession. We see and hear discussed ways and means of excluding the hordes. This cannot be done. The lowering of remuneration for manual labor drives many into mercantile and professional pursuits. You may raise the standard of matriculation, lengthen the term of tuition, increase the college fees and stiffen the final examinations. All these conditions will be met and fees will come down as in all the trades and professions. This is not a plea for cheap dentistry, nor any apology for the lowering of fees before there be a necessity for it; neither is it an insinuation that we are too well paid for our services. It is only a prospect of what I consider an inevitable condition in the not very far future. How to meet it is a question of no small importance. The only way it can be met in my opinion is by economy. There is no doubt but that we on this continent are most extravagant livers, indulging in luxuries which the same class of Europeans would not dream of.

The one redeeming feature of the lowering of wages in competition is, it lowers the cost of production; so that while the purchasing power of the masses is reduced, the purchasing power of a dollar is increased. This is not so noticeable in the dental office as in the home. Still, where our material and instruments are expensive, the lessening of the cost becomes a factor in profits of a year's practice.

Combines may be formed, and every effort made to keep up prices of goods. They must come down. Already they are on the move. Price lists are being circulated with the announcement: "Reduced from—to—" This reduction ranges from $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. as in the case of gold foils, to $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. as in the case of some makes of teeth, to 50 per cent. as in the case of some cements and alloys. Some of the manufacturers would fain have us believe that it is their magnanimity being manifested, that it has merely been a question of how soon and how much. As we have watched them corner the platinum market and advance the price of teeth, form combines to keep up prices of goods, it has appeared to us that it was rather a question of how long and how little. But leaving the necessity of economy out of the question it may be profitable to consider the subject as a matter of policy. While few of us expect to amass wealth from the practice of our profession, we all hope to lay up a little for a rainy day, or for that time which must come to us all, when the eye grows dim and the hand begins to lose its cunning, when we begin to see our patients leave us for our younger and more active confreres.

In no case more than in the dental office and laboratory is realized the truism, "wilful waste brings woful want," and "economy