

extracting it when it should be saved. The only question asked when told they should be saved by filling is what it will cost, and if we will warrant them to last as long as they live, if not they might as well have them out now as ever. If, when they bring a child to have the six year old molars extracted, we tell them they are permanent teeth and should be saved, they emphatically inform us we are mistaken, they are certainly temporary teeth because they had theirs out and have others in their place. They go from our office fully convinced we do not understand our business, or we are trying to get their hard-earned money by filling temporary teeth, not realizing if they were temporary teeth we were conferring on the child one of the greatest of blessings. So they go from our office feeling glad they have not let us fool them, and we are left to ponder and wonder.

I do not wish to convey the idea that all of our patients are like the above, for we have some very intelligent patients, who fully appreciate our efforts to serve them; and, who does not appreciate a good patient? But far too many of our patients are so ignorant of the first principles and benefits derived from dentistry, we are sometimes discouraged in our efforts to do our best for them. Perhaps some of you who have a good practice among people that understand the advantages derived from the proper care of the teeth, will say, "Let them go." We cannot afford to, for we need their business and they would want our work as well as do your patients yours, did they understand the benefits derived from it. There should be an effort made to educate the masses in this line and show them the importance of the teeth to perfect health. Were the people as a whole as well informed on this subject as they are on the general questions of the day, there is not one-half dentists enough in Vermont to supply the demands for work at good prices. I think our local papers should be induced to publish short articles on the importance of the teeth and their care. It is very slow business for the dentist to educate the people, coming in contact with comparatively few of a community, and talking with them a few minutes when they are half credulous, wondering if we are really telling the truth, or are after the work. There is no reason, with the dental journals published, why the country dentist, with his usual leisure hours, should not be well informed on what is going on in the profession. There are many good reasons why all the dentists in Vermont should become members and contributors to the Vermont State Dental Society; their annual dues are needed to carry on the work of the society, so the Executive Committee may get the best talent possible as demonstrators and essayists at our annual meetings. It is the only Vermont State Dental Society, and is recognized as an important factor by our Legislature. For our own benefit we should be identified with a society which is recognized by the leading dental societies of the