

have attained perfection in practice—some are young, though vigorous and aspiring, and with a will have seized the rounds of the ladder for an upward course. Others are weaker and need a helping hand, that should not be withheld. We should aim to assist, and not to impede their progress. It should be an *established rule*, never to speak ill or slightly of another's operations or of himself, to his patients. We often see poor operations from some of our best men, and some very good ones from those of less skill or experience. We do not know the circumstances under which a poor operation may have been performed. It is often as much the fault of the patient as the dentist. If we cannot speak well of an operation, or excuse it, it is better to pass it in silence, without a nod or a look that speaks louder than words. If all the work done is not *perfect*, do not let our fingers burn to get into the purse, at the sacrifice of justice or honor. Better advise the patient to go back and let his dentist have a chance to make any alteration or improvement. This is due to the patient as well as the dentist. I have seen many cases where a word would have secured a profitable operation; but a few moments of well directed labor has remedied an almost fatal defect,—like some slight fault in the articulation of a set of artificial teeth, where the grinding of a tooth, cutting down of the more prominent cusps, so as to give a square bite and more firmness to the plate, or prevent the sliding or jolting motion in chewing. I have gained more than money with that person; I have won his confidence and respect for honorable dealing.

As our patients are often travelling or moving from place to place, we should have confidence in sending them to other dentists, without fear of being destroyed, or the confidence abused, or all our work condemned, and a large bill run up for them to pay. We are safer in selecting the dentist from those who mix liberally with their brethren—a member of some dental association, a man who shows a determination to know whatever is to be learned, and to live up to the requirements of professional intercourse. It is not right towards others, nor just to ourselves, nor to our patients, to pretend to superiority over others; or that we possess some superior advantages or great secret by which we can do wonderful things, or even better than others; or purchase office rights of any patent, to the exclusion of our neighbours; to parade certificates of success or attainments, or flaming advertisements and show bills. They are tricks of the charlatan, and readily recognized as such by the discerning public.