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CONSTITUTION

AND

BY-LAWS

OF THE

Fourth District Dental Society

OF THE

STATE OF NEW YORK.

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SARATOGA SPRINGS, N. Y. :
GEORGE W. BALL, PRINTER.
1877.

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PREAMBLE.

WHEREAS, The rapid progress of Dental Science in America can clearly be traced in a great measure to the interchange of thought elicited by the establishment of Dental periodicals ; and,

WHEREAS, The profession in other cities are organized and aiding in Dental progress by associations and publications, it is therefore deemed expedient for our own honor and interest, and of the public, to organize the above named Society.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

NAME.

This Society shall be called "The Fourth District Dental Society."

ARTICLE II.

OFFICERS.

The officers of this Society shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Recording Secretary, and a Treasurer, each of whom shall be elected annually, by ballot.

ARTICLE III.

SECTION 1. This Society shall consist of Dentists in regular practice at the time of the passage of the act by State legislature, who shall be proposed by a member at a regular meeting, and be balloted for (unless objections are made) at the same meeting, three-fourths of the members present being necessary to an election.

SEC. 2. All members shall pay an initiation fee of five dollars (\$5), and sign the Constitution, and, on receipt of a diploma from this Society, shall pay into the treasury an additional fee of five dollars.

ARTICLE IV.

EXPULSION.

On complaint of three members, any member may be expelled for unprofessional conduct, malpractice or gross immorality, on being duly convicted therefor, three-fourths of the members present voting for the expulsion.

ARTICLE V.

MEETINGS.

There shall be annual meetings of this Society for the election of officers, discussions, reading of essays, etc., and the transaction of such other business as may be for the interests of the Society, on such time and place as the Society shall decide upon from year to year.

ARTICLE VI.

FUNDS.

The funds of this Society shall not be appropriated for any purpose other than the usual necessary ex-

penses, except by a vote of three-fourths of the members present at a regular meeting.

ARTICLE VII.

QUORUM.

Five acting members shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Society.

ARTICLE VIII.

ALTERATIONS AND AMENDMENTS.

Any alteration or amendment of, or additions to, this Constitution, shall be proposed at an annual meeting only, and shall not be acted upon until the next annual meeting, and shall be adopted only by a vote of three-fourths of the members present.

BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE I.

DUTIES OF PRESIDENT.

SECTION 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society ; call special meetings upon the request of three members ; sign all diplomas, certificates, and letters testimonial ; appoint all committees not otherwise provided for, and be *ex officio* a member of all standing committees.

SEC. 2. The Vice-President shall, in the absence of the President, preside ; and in case of the absence of the Vice-President, a President *pro tem.* shall be appointed.

SEC. 3. The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings ; notify officers and members of their election ; give notice to members of all meetings ; sign

all diplomas, certificates, or letters testimonial, and certify to all official acts of the Society in connection with the President.

SEC. 4. The Treasurer shall have charge of all moneys and other property of the Society, and pay to the order of the President, countersigned by the Secretary, and keep a correct account of the same in a book provided for the purpose. He shall make a full and detailed report of the financial affairs of the Society, at the first regular meeting in each year; and at the expiration of his term of office deliver to his successor all funds, papers, property and books relating thereto.

ARTICLE II.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

There shall be an Executive Committee of three members, whose duty it shall be to audit the accounts of the Treasurer, provide proper places for meetings, superintend the printing of the Society, and transact such other business as may be referred to it.

ARTICLE III.

QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS.

SECTION 1. Candidates for membership shall have attained the age of twenty-one (21) years, and shall

be in regular practice of Dental Surgery at the time of their application. They shall, upon the request of any three members, be subjected to an examination by a committee appointed for that purpose. If the report of such committee be favorable they shall be elected in the manner prescribed by the Constitution. Should an adverse report be made, no further action shall be taken in the case.

SEC. 2. No candidate, so rejected, shall be proposed again for membership within one year, unless by unanimous consent of all members present.

ARTICLE IV.

DUES.

SECTION 1. Each member of the Society shall annually pay the sum of — dollars *per dues*.

SEC. 2. All dues to the Society shall be payable at the beginning of the fiscal and official year.

SEC. 3. Any member failing to pay his dues, or such assessments as shall be made, shall cease to be a member of this Society, and shall have no right, title or claim to any portion of the funds or property of the Society.

ARTICLE V.

VISITORS AT MEETINGS.

SECTION 1. Any member may invite his professional friends to attend the meetings of the Society.

SEC. 2. A copy of every address or professional paper read and presented to the Society shall be kept by the Secretary ; but no such paper shall be published as having been read before the Society, unless authorized by a vote of its members.

SEC. 3. Every member shall notify the Secretary of a change of residence, as soon as practicable.

ARTICLE VI.

AMENDMENTS, ETC.

These By-Laws may be altered or amended at any regular meeting, by a vote of two-thirds of the members present.

ARTICLE VII.

VACANCIES.

If any officer of this Society shall absent himself for three successive regular meetings, the said office shall be declared vacant, and the Society may elect officers to fill such vacancies, unless good excuses are given.

ARTICLE VIII.

CENSORS.

At each annual meeting of this Society five Censors shall be chosen by ballot, to continue in office for one year, and until others are chosen, who shall constitute a district board of Censors, whose duty it shall be to carefully and impartially inquire into

the qualifications of all persons who shall present themselves as practising dentists for examination, and report their opinion, in writing, to the President of this Society, who shall thereupon issue, on the recommendation of said board of censors, a certificate of qualification to such person or persons, countersigned by the Secretary and bearing the seal of this Society, to practice dentistry in this district.

ARTICLE IX.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

SECTION 1. The order of business at the annual meetings shall be as follows, unless suspended by a two-third vote of the members present :

1. Calling the roll of members.
2. Reading the minutes of last meeting.
3. Reports of committees, standing and special.
4. Election of members.
5. Reading of essays and discussions.
6. Incidents of office practice.
7. Miscellaneous and unfinished business.
8. Election of officers.
9. Announcement of committees by the presiding officer.
10. Report of censors.
11. Reading and correcting the minutes.
12. Adjournment.

SEC. 2. The business for a special meeting, when convened, shall be considered immediately after the meeting is called to order.

ARTICLE X.

COMMITTEES—HOW CHOSEN, AND THEIR DUTIES.

SECTION 1. There shall be an Executive Committee chosen by the President for one year. (Duties—see art. 2, by-laws.)

SEC. 2. All special committees shall be chosen by the presiding officer, unless a ballot shall be requested by two members, and shall serve until discharged by action of the Society.

CODE OF
DENTAL ETHICS.

ARTICLE FIRST.

SECTION 1. The dentist should fully recognize the obligations involved in the discharge of his duties to his patients. As they are, in most cases, unable correctly to estimate the character of his operations, his own sense of right must guarantee faithfulness in their performance.

SEC. 2. Every case committed to his care should receive the attention which is due to every operation performed on living, sensitive tissues.

SEC. 3. The dentist should be temperate in all things, keeping both mind and body in the best possible health, that his patients may have the benefit of that clearness of judgment and skill which is their right.

SEC. 4. The person and office arrangements of the dentist should indicate that he is a gentleman ; and he should in all relations sustain a high-toned moral character.

SEC. 5. It is not to be expected that the patient will possess a very extended or a very accurate knowledge of professional matters. The dentist should make due allowance for this, patiently explaining many things which may seem quite clear to himself ; thus endeavoring to educate the public mind, so that it will properly appreciate the attainments of our profession. He should encourage no false hopes, by promising success, when in the nature of the case there is uncertainty.

ARTICLE SECOND.

MAINTAINING PROFESSIONAL CHARACTER.

SECTION 1. A member of the dental profession is bound to maintain its honor, and to labor constantly to extend its sphere of usefulness. He should avoid everything in language or conduct calculated to discredit or dishonor his profession.

SEC. 2. It is unprofessional to resort to public advertisements, cards, handbills, posters, or signs calling attention to peculiar styles of work, lowness of prices, or special modes of operating, or to claim superiority over neighboring practitioners ; to publish reports of cases, or certificates, in public prints ; to go from house to house to solicit or perform operations ; to circulate or recommend nostrums, or to perform any similar acts. But nothing in this section shall be so construed as to imply that it is unprofessional for dentists to announce in the public prints, or by card, simply their names, occupation and place of business.

SEC. 3. When consulted by the patient of another practitioner, the dentist should guard against inquiries or hints disparaging to the family dentist, or calculated to weaken the patient's confidence in him, and if the interests of the patient will not be endangered thereby, the case should be temporarily treated and referred back to the family dentist.

SEC. 4. When general rules shall have been adopted by members of the profession practising in the same localities, in relation to fees, it is unprofessional and dishonorable to depart from them, except when circumstances absolutely require it. And it is regarded as unprofessional to warrant operations or work, as an inducement to patronage.

SEC. 5. Dentists are frequently witnesses, and at the same time the best judges of the impositions perpetrated by charlatans, and it is their duty to enlighten and warn the public in regard to them.

