

AMBLER. (J.G.)

our profession x x x x



OUR PROFESSION.

HOW CAN I BEST PROMOTE ITS INTEREST OR ADD
TO ITS REPUTATION?

BY J. G. AMBLER, M. D., M. D. S.,

AND THE

PRESENTATION OF A PLATINA MEDAL TO JOHN ALLEN, D.D.S

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I answer, first, by identifying myself with it, and ever bearing in mind the fact that it is the individual that gives dignity, respectability and importance to his calling; not the calling to the man. By making its interests my own; by guarding its reputation as I would my own; by an honest, conscientious discharge of all its requirements and duties; ever watchful and mindful of its reputation and interests, by making myself master of my profession in all its details; with "Excelsior" for my motto; aiming high, satisfied with nothing short of perfection; and by careful, skillful and judicious treatment, impressing upon the public my own ability and my professional claim to recognition among the curative branches of the medical profession, as well as all other combina-



tions seeking the amelioration of human ills ; *individual* elevation, and *collective* union, are stepping stones to professional superiority. The progress of our profession in public esteem is, in a great degree, dependent upon the life, character and efforts of those identified with it. Christianity suffers much from the inconsistent lives and actions of its professors ; so does our own profession suffer from mal-practice, unskillful operations, unprofessional conduct, immorality, dissipation, and other like degrading attributes of character.

A uniform, conscientious, and consistent life, honest, just and reasonable in all things, coupled with skillful, kind and sympathetic treatment, will lead to individual and professional appreciation and esteem. And as the individual rises in the scale of approbation, he carries his profession or calling with him. Respect yourself and the world will respect you, is true and trite, and as applicable to our calling or profession as to individuals.

I add to the reputation of my profession by the recognition and appreciation of discoveries and discoverers, and the efforts of those who have directed time, talents and energies to promote its usefulness. I honor my profession by honoring those who have been in any way instrumental in giving proper form and character to it, and I show the sincerity of my homage by my efforts to imitate their example and add my mite to its working capital and striving myself to attain a like reputation ; not forgetting the debt I owe to those who have achieved the discoveries and improved the practice for my benefit ; regarding this obligation as an entailed one, linking fidelity and fame together, I would frown upon that selfish spirit which would conceal and retain the individual discoveries, improvements and methods of practice which he may have made or stolen. Yet brain and hand-work of all kinds should receive the compensation justly due, by recognizing, appreciating and acknowledging its claims. And in cases where direct remuneration is justly due, and for which we receive an equivalent, we should not withhold it ; although, as a rule, we all, acting on the principle of reciprocity, should give and take ; each as far as possible should contribute his mite to the general fund. Liberality begets liberality. The desire to give credit and compliment when due, begets a desire to receive commendation, thereby promoting the interest of the whole. I pro

mote the true interest of my profession by identifying myself with encouraging and sustaining organizations calculated and designed to bring the profession together for the interchange of views, and to discuss matters pertaining to our vocation. Also, by contributing to and sustaining periodicals or journals devoted to our calling. I also add to its status, among the learned and scientific professions, by aiding in surrounding it with enactments and safeguards to protect it from the inroads of empiricism, quackery, and from those whom science never taught the "hard but useful drudgery of thought," as well as to sanction and encourage all discoveries and efforts for its improvement and advancement. I will not detain you by detailing the various minor, though no less important means, by which I can add to the reputation of my profession, leaving that to your own good judgment and the discussions evoked by this paper and its suggestions. My own views, however, in this respect, find further exemplification in the act which I am commissioned to perform on behalf of this organization, thereby giving our associate endorsement to the views herein presented: namely, the presentation of a medal to Dr. JOHN ALLEN, of New York, on behalf of the *American Dental Convention*.

Among the many bright spots in the horizon of life, the pleasant scenes and incidents of its voyage, none are more so to me than the duty now assigned of presenting to our friend and professional brother, Dr. Allen,

The veteran who has grown grey,
 In serving well our noble art,
 Yet shows a zeal as firm to-day,
 As ever moved a manly heart—

The result of whose efforts in the cause of dental progress and perfection is apparent to all who are interested in dental science, art and literature, a testimonial of the regard and esteem that the profession at large, this convention, and ourselves as individuals, entertain for him and his important services. Being fully impressed with the fact that an opportunity only was wanting to bring out this feeling and sentiment, I embraced that opportunity at our last meeting to express my own convictions on the subject, and moved the appointment of a committee to present a suitable testimonial to him for efforts and improvements in behalf of mechanical dentistry or artificial dentures. The resolution was

adopted, the committee appointed, and now it devolves upon me to consummate our wishes and decision, by presenting to him that testimonial, in medal form.

Dr. Allen—Sir: Your efforts, struggles, trials—legal, physical and mental—are known, estimated and appreciated by your professional brethren, who have witnessed with admiration your persistent efforts to bring to perfection that style of dentures, which may well challenge the world to equal, as a substitute for natural teeth. It is no little satisfaction and pride to us to know that other nations have shown their appreciation of the result of your efforts, by awards previously unknown in your specialty. The committee have selected, as a suitable testimonial, a *platina medal*. It is known to us that you have been honored with gold, silver and bronze medals, therefore a new material seemed desirable to complete the assortment. We therefore concluded to further compliment you by adopting a metal familiar to yourself, and one closely identified with your improvements, that metal immortalized by your magic hand, and which has been the *pegasus* on which you rode to fame. In order to connect this medal with the day we celebrate, our Centennial Anniversary, we have ornamented it with a representation of Memorial Hall, which will, for coming centuries, commemorate this among other of its events. The recording angel has placed upon the historic page the achievements which have called forth our admiration and acknowledgment. You will find engraved on the reverse side the fact and by whom presented. Also the motto, "*Per augusta ad angusta.*" (*Through trials to triumph.*) All of which, when blended together and harmonized, will, we trust, form a chain, each link being necessary to the unity of the whole. The metal will remind you of your struggles in bringing it into the dental laboratory, as a base for artificial *dentures*. The inscription will show that appreciation followed the event. The Memorial Hall will recall to you the occasion, place and time, and that auspicious time—our National Centennial.

Centennial! Great year of years!
 Our country is of age to-day!
 There have been trials, doubts and fears,
 But these like clouds have passed away;
 And lo, how glorious she stands,
 Mature in peaceful grandeur now,

Amid the offerings of all lands,
To charm her eye and deck her brow.

We bring *our* tribute to her shrine,
The dental jewel of her fame,
Forever in her crown to shine,
And bear aloft our ALLEN'S name!
All hail, our art's Centennial chief;
Platina's great magician, hail!
Your toil and skill have wrought relief,
And taught our science to prevail!
Accept this token of our love,
The veneration due to worth;
And may eternal bliss above,
Reward your noble work on earth!

DR. ALLEN'S RESPONSE.

Mr. President, and Members of the American Dental Convention: In receiving this beautiful testimonial as a token of your appreciation of the advance made in dental prosthesis, known as continuous gum work, I do it in view of the fact that your recipient has simply been the humble instrument for conceiving, developing and rendering available to the dental profession an important improvement, which is pronounced the nearest approach to the natural dental organs that had been previously attained by artificial means. And as it is strictly of American origin, it seems the more appropriate on this Centennial occasion to record this memorable act of yours upon the historic page of American Dentistry.

And here allow me to refer in terms of commendation to the very appropriate material (platinum) which you have selected for this memento. A metal which for purity, beauty and durability, represents just what is embodied in this whole system for the construction of artificial dentures.

