

EDITORIAL

Good professional conduct is regarded as something very noble. And those people who adopt these values seriously believe that there is something higher than themselves, and therefore, they consider their work as a mission.

These days one hears casual comments from the dental patients: "Dental surgeons have become traders".

It is believed that only education can alleviate or alter the situation. But let us examine more closely the kind of dental education the future dentist receives during his training. During this period he is taught in detail about medical and technical aspects of the field but he is not taught a word about social medicine, his duties towards the society, and his obligation to the well-being of his fellow citizens.

A change in the attitudes of learning and courses of study for dental and medical students is possibly the most important of all. That provides hope in this time of seeming darkness. We are encouraged by the capacity of younger generation than our own to identify the issues and by their eagerness to tackle them. We have encountered in recent years increasing number of dental students who express serious concern about the human situation and are anxious to put right some of the things that they perceive to be wrong.

Ethics cannot be enforced by law. They ought to be learned through education or by the examples set by good teachers. No academic teaching is more effective than the personal example of a human being dedicated passionately to the service of other. No lectures can replace the practical example set by a good teacher as a lesson for other. Only people who devote themselves with hard work, efficiency, intelligence and a strong sense of social ethics to a just cause are able to influence a society, which to start with does not listen to them but ends up by understanding, admiring and following them.

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