

## INTRODUCTION TO FIRST EDITION.

OF the origin of the art of dentistry no one can speak with certainty, as its early history is shrouded in the mists of antiquity; but dental operations are recorded in very remote times.

References are made to the art in the writings of Hippocrates, in the fifth century B.C. Martial, the Latin poet, in the first century B.C., says that a Roman dentist "Cascellius is in the habit of fastening as well as extracting the teeth." To Lelius he says, "You are not ashamed to purchase teeth and hair;" and adds that "the toothless mouth of Egle was repaired with bone and ivory;" also, that "Galla, more refined, removed her artificial teeth during the night."

Horace, in the same century, cites the case of the "sorceresses Canidia and Sagana running through the city and losing the one her false hair, the other her false teeth."

Galen, the celebrated physician, in the second century A.D., also speaks of the art of dentistry as being then practiced.

These early operations were limited to the extraction of offending teeth and the replacement of those which had been lost with substitutes which were retained in position by means of narrow bands or ligatures attaching them to the adjoining natural teeth, and without the use of plates. Crude as they were, they formed the first expression of the art of dentistry, a beneficent art from the beginning, in that it sought to remedy pathological or accidental defects. Confined to the simplest operations, it existed for

centuries, and then was apparently lost during the Dark Ages, to reappear when the more general diffusion of knowledge ushered in the modern era of science and invention.

After its revival, dentistry, so much of it as was known, was in a measure a secret art, the practice of which even within the memory of men now living, was involved in mystery; but recent progress has lifted the veil, and dentistry, in the treatment of the teeth on correct, scientific, rational principles, has developed an art and a science which have given it honorable rank among the professions. In its twofold evolution it has absorbed from every available source whatever would broaden its science or perfect its art. It calls to its aid anatomy, physiology, pathology, chemistry, therapeutics, metallurgy, sculpture, and mechanics, with each of which it stands in closer or more remote relation; and the practitioners of dentistry who have become the most eminent and useful have been men of broad attainments and great versatility of talent.

In the history of all progress, movements apparently of a more or less reactionary character are recorded. In the useful arts especially it is not uncommon to find a return to forms and methods formerly used, but long since discarded and forgotten. So in dentistry we find methods of treatment and modes of practice once in vogue but long fallen into disuse, revived with improvements and modifications that stamp them as practically rediscoveries.

These movements are not to be regarded as retrogressive, because the modifications which accompany the reintroduction of practical ideas and inventions attest them as real advances, and indicate clearly that the cycle of knowledge is ever widening with experience. This volume demonstrates how modern dentistry has utilized the principles of some of the simplest original operations, and by "proving all things, holding fast that which is good," has attained its present honorable position in both its scientific and artistic departments.

The history of dentistry of later years is, in brief, a recital of progress and improvement. The medical profession has officially recognized it as closely allied to medicine by inviting its representatives to take part in the International Medical Congresses on the footing of professional equality.

Such is the position which dentistry has attained. Much of the progress which has made its present elevation possible must be credited to the dental profession of the United States, which has been justly termed the cradle of modern dentistry. Here the validity of the idea that scientific knowledge should form the basis of training for practice was first demonstrated by the successful establishment of dental schools; here the first journal for the interchange among dentists of thought and experience was founded; here the first association having for its object the uplifting and upholding of dentistry by the mutual helpfulness of its practitioners had its origin; here, in a word, dentistry was first divorced from mystery, here it first passed the narrow confines of a mere handicraft and earned for itself the right to be classed among the learned and liberal professions.