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# A PROFESSIONAL REVIEW 1864-1898

By JAS. McMANUS, D. D. S.

Read before the Connecticut State Dental Association at the 34th annual meeting, May 17th, 1898, and now published by vote of the Association

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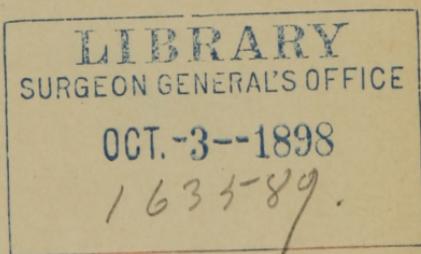
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT  
1898



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DENTAL COMMISSIONERS OF CONNECTICUT

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*Hartford, Conn., Dec. 14, 1898*

My dear Dr. McManus :

I am requested by the Commissioners to cordially invite you to prepare a history of the preliminary work leading up to the passage of the law "Concerning the Practice of Dentistry" in Connecticut and of the work accomplished by the Commissioners since their appointment.

If you consent, they will arrange with the Executive Committee of the Connecticut State Dental Association for the presentation of the paper at the May meeting, 1898.

Trusting that we may receive a favorable reply, I am

Sincerely yours,

G. L. PARMELE,

*Recorder.*

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At the 34th annual meeting of the Connecticut State Dental Association, May 17, 1898, it was unanimously voted that the paper read by Jas. McManus, D.D.S., be published at the expense of the Association.



# A PROFESSIONAL REVIEW

1864 - 1898

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JAS. McMANUS, D. D. S.

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THE first gathering of dentists in convention in Hartford occurred Friday, May 6th, 1864, thirty-four years ago, when the Connecticut Valley Dental Society held its third meeting in Central Hall. The executive committee made special efforts to call together as many of the dentists in Connecticut and the Connecticut Valley region as they could to meet and welcome Drs. Jonathan Taft of Cincinnati, Ohio, and William H. Atkinson of New York, who were on a tour East to visit local societies at the request of the American Dental Association. The regular order of business was suspended and each of the gentlemen spoke at length on the rapid progress of the profession and the many advantages to be gained from associated efforts. They spoke of the need of higher education and the necessity of educating the people to an appreciation of their teeth and the importance of good operations. They told of the many advantages, good fellowship and knowledge to be gained, and, while the American Dental Association had been doing good work and would continue to do so, it was, and always would be, dependent on State and local societies for new members, and through them to be able to keep in touch with the men in the profession throughout the country. The meeting was a very interesting one; there were present fourteen members of the Connecticut Valley Dental Society, eleven of them from Massachusetts and three from Connecticut. Eight new members from Connecticut and two from Massachusetts were admitted at this meeting. There were several more dentists present with the guests, making in all about thirty

who attended the first gathering of dentists in Hartford. The social feature of the occasion was a reception given at the home of Mr. James H. Ashmead, Gold-foil Manufacturer, which was most thoroughly enjoyed.

The Connecticut Valley Dental Society was started Nov. 10th, 1863. I became a member in 1864, and after the missionary tour of Drs. Taft and Atkinson I felt that Connecticut ought to get into line and be represented in the American Dental Association. After frequent talks with Dr. Leroy D. Pelton, a young dentist in Hartford, we decided to send out the following circular:

### CIRCULAR

Hartford, September 15th, 1864.

*Dear Sir:*

We most cordially invite you to be present in this City on the 20th of October next, at Central Hall, to assist in organizing a State Dental Society. You understand the objects sought by an organization of this kind: the advancement of its members in professional knowledge and the better establishment of fraternal love and good fellowship. That there are individual and public benefits to be derived from a free interchange of professional opinions and experiences must be obvious to every thinking man, and, presuming that you are a thinking man, we call your attention to the subject and ask your hearty co-operation.

That "*esprit de corps*" which is the soul of a professional body has forever had a hard struggle to exist (if it has existed at all) among the dentists of Connecticut.

Let us foster it till it animates the whole body, and the body shall cease to be dead and become a living thing rejoicing in its existence.

Very respectfully yours,

JAS. McMANUS  
 LEROY D. PELTON } *Committee.*

The circular was sent to every dentist in the State whose name could be ascertained, and in response thirty-nine dentists met in Central Hall on the 20th of October, 1864.

A temporary organization was effected by the election of Dr. E. E. Crofut of Hartford for chairman and Dr. Jas. McManus as secretary.

Drs. Metcalf of New Haven, Sheffield of New London, Geer of Norwich, Pelton of Middletown, and McManus of Hartford, were appointed to draft a Constitution and By Laws.

At the afternoon session the Committee presented their report which was accepted. The dentists present signed their names to the constitution, paid the initiation fee of three dollars, and became members of the Connecticut State Dental Association.

The following named gentlemen were elected as officers:

<i>President,</i>	Dr. Asa Hill of Norwalk.
<i>Vice-Prest.,</i>	Dr. W. W. Sheffield of New London.
<i>Rec. Sec.,</i>	Dr. Jas. McManus of Hartford.
<i>Cor. Sec.,</i>	Dr. Leroy D. Pelton of Hartford.
<i>Treas.,</i>	Dr. E. E. Crofut of Hartford.
<i>Librarian,</i>	Dr. Charles P. Graham of Middletown.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dr. Samuel Mallett of New Haven.  
 Dr. John T. Metcalf of New Haven.  
 Dr. H. J. Stevens of New Haven.

For several years the meetings were held in the different cities in the State and at both the annual and semi-annual meetings the executive committee endeavored to the best of their ability to arrange programmes that would interest and attract the attendance of the dentists of the State. Professors from Dental Colleges were often secured to give lectures, and the attendance of dentists from other States was of frequent occurrence. All the dentists of the State were invited to attend these meetings to hear the lectures, enjoy the talks, take part in the discussions and to witness the many clinical operations that were publicly performed by visiting experts as well as by members of the Association. There were many interesting meetings, pleasant social gatherings and good reports in the papers of the State and in the *Dental Cosmos*. The Association was incorporated under the laws of the State in 1876, and the code of ethics, as prescribed by the American Dental Association, was adopted in 1877. After the

adoption of the code there was a loss of some of the members and it put a restriction on the admission of new ones, as only those were eligible to membership who were willing to live up to the spirit and letter of the code.

Unwisely, a change was made in 1878, increasing the initiation fee to ten dollars and the annual dues to five dollars; which also caused a dropping out of more of the old members and for a time there were but few applications for membership. It is a fact that a large number of the dentists do not and will not pay any money to sustain dental associations. These non-payers have been in the past and are at present only too willing to let a few pay all the money and do all the work, while they stand aside ready to grasp and appropriate everything of value that comes their way. The association and the old members had done good work. One volume of "Transactions" was published that made a good record for the Association. The meetings had called together many distinguished members of the profession from other cities, illustrated lectures and microscopical exhibitions had been given, papers and clinics of an instructive character were offered but the young men could not be induced to become members and for several years the Association was allowed to rest quietly on the laurels it had gained in the early years of its prosperity.

The hopes and anticipations of the older men that a younger element would come to the front and take up and continue the work of the Association so well established was not realized and after several years of impatient waiting, the old timers again called a special meeting to be held March 21st, 1889, at the office of Dr. Jas. McManus in Hartford. The President, Dr. R. W. Browne of New London was unable to be present on account of illness and the meeting was called to order by the Vice-President, Dr. W. J. Rider of Danbury. There were present, of the old members, Drs. W. J. Rider, E. S. Gaylord, Joseph H. Smith, J. H. Alexander, Daniel Dwyer, Geo. L. Parmele, James McManus, and Wm. H. Rider, M. D. S., and Charles McManus, D. D. S. were elected to membership. The afternoon was devoted to a review of the work done by the Association, and after a pleasant interchange of ideas, it was decided that the older members then present must again take the lead in active work and endeavor if

possible to arouse some life and interest among the young dentists in the State. At the annual meeting, May 21st 1889, several changes were made in the Constitution and By-Laws, the most important being the reduction of the initiation fee to three dollars and the annual dues to one dollar.

At the annual meeting, May 20th, 1890, the question of Dental Legislation was considered. Dr. McManus suggested to the members to give the subject serious thought during the dinner recess and decide in their minds, first, whether they wanted a Dental Law. Dr. Gaylord read extracts from *The People's Dental Journal*, published in New Haven by a dental company, and remarked that if any one doubted the need of such a law he would like to have him glance over that paper. He thought we needed some power to deal with such men. At the afternoon session Dr. William H. Rider read a draft of a dental law which he had compiled and suggested that a special committee be appointed to make a thorough study of the subject, formulate a law, and have power to bring the same before the Legislature. Dr. James McManus also read a bill which he thought might serve as a base for a committee to commence building upon. The subject was discussed by Drs. Alexander, Wilmot, Barker, Parmele, Wm. H. Rider, Gaylord, Fones, and Smith, and on motion of Dr. Joseph H. Smith it was voted that a committee of five be appointed with power to add to their number and to take the necessary steps required to secure the passage of a dental law. President Fones appointed the following committee: Drs. Jas. McManus, Wm. H. Rider, Geo. L. Parmele, and R. W. Browne, to which was added Dr. Civilion Fones.

At the annual meeting May 19th, 1891, Mr. Frank Harper Jackman having applied in due form for the beneficiary scholarship at Baltimore College of Dental Surgery and being well recommended his petition was granted.

The subject of dental laws had not been much agitated in Connecticut up to this time, although over four-fifths of the States in the Union had passed, and presumably were enforcing, laws regulating the practice of dentistry. The older men were not specially anxious, for they did not so much feel the need of one; but, as our neighboring States had dental laws, it left Connecticut an open field for questionable characters to roam over, and many

of the younger men were anxious and thought they really needed the protecting hand of the State to keep such men out. The committee secured as counsel Judge Thomas McManus and they gave to him copies of the dental laws that were in force in the different States, and, after a careful study of these laws, he, in consultation with the committee prepared a draft of a law differing in many respects from the laws of the other States, but which he believed was not only in accord with the Constitution of the United States but that it was also eminently fair to all concerned. The law presupposes moral character, education, and practical ability and anticipates that in the future dentists will enter the profession and the State by the way of educational institutions. Yet it gives equal privileges to the earnest, hard working office student and assistant who may apply for an examination and license. It recognizes that exceptional men may gain theoretical, scientific and practical knowledge as well as become skillful mechanics outside and apart from educational institutions and the path was left wide open for young men of that character to obtain a license to practice dentistry in Connecticut. Every dentist should read the law carefully and observe how strong are some of its features, and they should also try to realize how important it is for them to conduct their lives and business in accordance with its provisions, for ignorance and careless infractions of the law may possibly cause them at least serious annoyance. The laws of Connecticut recognize dentistry as a profession and call for the appointment of State Dental Commissioners, giving to them great powers; and only such men are eligible who are in good standing in the profession and who shall have been for at least ten years in active practice in this State previous to such appointment. The words "dental examiners" have no place in this law for their duties are not those of a school-master or detective. It was not expected, certainly it was not intended by the framers and advocates of the dental law, that the Commissioners would try to befog and worry applicants for a license with catch questions, and pet methods of operating or modes of treating diseased conditions or that their proceedings would in any way give color to a belief that possibly interests or prejudice could influence their actions in granting a license to practice, and, as it was believed that only men of learning, ability and ripe judgment would be honored with an appoint-

ment, the title of State Dental Commissioner was created to add dignity and responsibility to the position.

At the meeting May 19th, 1891, Dr. Jas. McManus, for the Committee, presented a report on Dental Legislation, reading the law as prepared and presented in the Senate by Judge McManus at the Session of 1891. Owing to the celebrated dead-lock in the Legislature that year, no business was transacted. There was no opposition offered during the years 1891 and 1892 to the proposed law and in 1893 it was again presented in the Senate, referred to the judiciary committee, and a day appointed for a hearing. At this hearing there appeared as advocates of the law Judge McManus, Drs. Wm. J. Rider of Danbury, E. S. Gaylord of New Haven, C. C. Barker of Meriden, Geo. L. Parmele and Jas. McManus of Hartford and by letter Dr. Civilion Fones of Bridgeport. No one appeared to suggest any changes or to oppose the law and in due time it was reported on favorably, passed both houses and was signed by Governor Luzon B. Morris, the law going into effect on and after May 25th, 1893. The remarkable unanimity of the dentists, legislators, and the public, was in marked contrast to the efforts made in opposition by many medical men, the Press and the public at the several hearings given by the Judiciary Committee before the passage of the Medical Law.

At the annual meeting May 16th, 1893, the report of the Committee was presented, announcing the passage of the Dental Law. The report was accepted, the committee continued, and they were also recommended to retain Judge McManus to present to the Governor the views of the Association as to the appointment of the Dental Commissioners. The Committee and the Association delegated me to go with him when he called on Governor Morris. Before accepting, I stated to the members present that if I was to act as their representative I would obey instructions, but I would also claim the right of an individual and would present the names of men that I thought competent for the position, and that I believed would be satisfactory to the dentists of the State. I stated then, without consultation with the men named, that the ones I had in mind were Drs. E. S. Gaylord of New Haven, Civilion Fones of Bridgeport, W. J. Rider of Danbury, R. W. Browne of New London, and Geo. L. Parmele of Hartford.

The selection of these names was satisfactory and I was instructed to inform Governor Morris that they were recommended to him for appointment as Commissioners by the Connecticut State Dental Association.

The Dental Law was passed and approved May 25th, 1893, and a few days later Judge McManus and myself called at the State Capitol to pay our respects to Governor Morris and to state the object of our visit. I told him I was delegated by the State Dental Association to present the names of several dentists that they could heartily recommend as honorable and capable men for the office of Dental Commissioners. He looked at the list of names I gave him and then took from his desk a paper that some one had furnished him in advance of our calling. He pointed to my name that was first on his list and asked me what I had to say in his favor. I replied that I knew him well and also knew that he could not be induced under any circumstances to accept the office if it was offered to him. I noticed on his list the name of Dr. Charles P. Graham and I remarked that General Graham would be a good man. He looked up quickly and said is that General Graham of Middletown? I knew then that his appointment was certain. The Governor asked me if I could recommend any dentist from the western part of the State. I replied that there were good men in that section, but I was giving him the names of men that I personally knew and believed to be in every way qualified. I was a little earnest in my advocacy, for the Governor quietly said, I believe I have the power of appointing. I apologized and said I knew it, but I also knew the men I had named and I believed that they would best carry out the intent of the law. That one was a graduate from the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, one from the New York Dental College and one from the Harvard Dental College and the others had been in practice over twenty-five years, and all were men who held the respect and confidence of the public and the dentists of the State, that the only objection to them in my opinion was that they all unfortunately were Republican in politics. The one man that had great influence with the Governor, and the one that he was most anxious to appoint was Dr. E. S. Gaylord of New Haven, but he was obstinate in his refusal and equally determined to force another in his place. Some weeks later the names of the men ap-

pointed by Governor Morris were given to the public. The Governor either forgot, or he did not believe me, when I told him I would not accept, for in making his appointments my name was on the list with Drs. Fones, Rider, Graham and Browne. I received a commission from Governor Morris and a few days later I sent him a letter of thanks but respectfully declined the honor.

Dr. Gaylord refused an appointment, Dr. McManus was appointed and declined to serve, Drs. Rider, Parmele, Fones and Browne knew they were to be recommended, but Dr. Graham did not know that his name had been presented, nor had he in my opinion any idea that he would be appointed on the Commission. I was anxious that the Dental Law and the Board of Commissioners should prove to be all that the dentists of the State could desire, and was specially desirous that Dr. Parmele should be a member of the Board. I exerted all my persuasive powers to influence him. I promised that I would give him all the assistance in my power and that my sons would also be at his service and command during his term of office. I wrote to Dr. Gaylord to use his influence and to also see Governor Morris and urge his appointment, and it was several days before we could get Dr. Parmele to consent to accept an appointment if it was tendered to him. These men all knew that the position called for a great amount of work, serious loss of time from business, extra labor in many ways, and an out-put of money much greater than the loss of time would indicate. There was no reason other than their special fitness and ability why the office should be forced on them; and they protested against my presenting their names to the Governor. Dr. Gaylord and myself were the special sponsors acting for the State Association for the Commissioners, and the Governor after a time was convinced that we both were asking for what we honestly and unselfishly believed to be for the public good, and he therefore made the appointments we asked for. The course pursued by Drs. Gaylord and McManus while acting for the Association, the dentists of the State, and the public, was open and above board. There was no politics in it. It was clean, ethical, professional, and the record of the first Board of Dental Commissioners in Connecticut is one that all can justly feel proud of, and hold up to public scrutiny as without a parallel in the country.

The Dental Law Section 2, reads, "no person shall be appointed a Dental Commissioner who shall not have been for at least ten years previous to such appointment a practitioner in dentistry in this state and in good standing in said profession.

Section 8, reads "no person (after the passage of the Dental Law) shall engage in practice unless he shall have first obtained from said Commissioners a license therefor."

Section 11. "Every applicant for a license shall be examined by said Commissioners as to his professional skill before such license shall be granted, and they may refuse to grant a license when they are satisfied that the applicant is unfit or incompetent; and they may for good and legal cause, revoke any license that has been granted, and may prohibit any dentist from further lawful practice on satisfactory proof that such dentist has become unfit or incompetent therefor."

I have read part of the sections of the Dental Law to call to your mind the important fact that while it is possible for a dentist to have been thirty years in practice, to have a clean record as a reputable citizen and to be well-known among his fellow workers as a skillful mechanic, it is also possible that he may not have the special knowledge and judgment that would enable him to become a competent dental commissioner. Manipulative and mechanical ability is all important in dentistry as a business; which is best illustrated by a class of advertisements, and the exhibition of placarded specimens that parade the streets calling attention to cheap prices, and still cheaper work. Since the organization of dental societies and the establishment of dental colleges the public look for, and expect practitioners to be men of fairly good education. The graduates sent out from the colleges have all had many advantages that the old-time office student could not be expected to secure under the guidance of one instructor. The dental colleges for the past twenty-five years have been steadily advancing along the line of higher theoretical and practical instruction. They afford ample facilities to the student for acquiring a broad and complete professional education, and when men graduate from these institutions they are commanded by law to appear before the State Commissioners before they can get a license to practice their profession in this State. The Commissioners have no easy task in their examina-

tion of applicants for a license. To each one certain departments have been assigned. The operative examinations are apart and independent of the mechanical and prosthetic and so on through anatomy, physiology, histology, microscopy, bacteriology, dental pathology, and therapeutics, chemistry—organic and inorganic, materia medica, oral surgery, and the administration of anæsthetics. Each Commissioner has enough to do to cover his own department and he should know his subjects so thoroughly that his individual examinations will bear the light and test of publicity and criticism.

When changes are made in the Commission it is expected that the new member will take the place of the man that he succeeds. The old members cannot be expected to change around to accommodate a new man, and it is absurd to expect a politician or a Governor to appoint a capable man without previously consulting with members of the profession. It is well known that one who has been a student, and has continued to be a student, is better equipped to take up any of the departments than one who has had no experience, or perhaps no talent or even inclination for the study necessary to fit him for taking on the duties of a man whose place he had been appointed to fill. The dental graduate, with ten years of added experience as a practitioner in this State, and who stands well with his professional brethren, can more readily take up the duties of any member of the Board than can one who has had no collegiate instruction or special professional training; and as the Commissioners are to judge the applicants for a license, it is but right to demand that the Commissioners hereafter appointed shall be men holding a college degree. The law presupposes that the members of the Board shall be qualified and conscientious men, not necessarily old men, but men with professional instincts, who realize their responsibilities and who accept official position from a sense of duty. Some of you may have forgotten, and many of you may not have known of the amendment made in 1875 to the Constitution of the American Dental Association and which has since been incorporated in the Constitution of the National Dental Association, Article IV., Section 4, which reads as follows: This Association will receive no delegates who, since August, 1875, shall have entered the profession without having first graduated at some reputable Dental or Medical College."

This section of the Constitution rules out all who have entered on the practice of dentistry since 1875, while all dentists who were in practice before that time are eligible as delegates or permanent members without having a college degree. The line was drawn then between dentistry as a business and dentistry as a profession. There are other societies in the country that have drawn that line and neither influence, personal friendship, manipulative or mechanical skill can gain membership for one who has not a dental or medical degree, excepting always the rare instances when one by special contributions to science or valuable inventions may gain an honorary membership. It is neither ungenerous, unkind or malicious on the part of the members of these societies in restricting the membership to college graduates, for these laws were put in force over twenty-five years ago, and it is now simply the fault or misfortune of those who have entered on the practice of dentistry within the past twenty-five years if they do not possess either a dental or medical degree. The Dental Commissioner or Examiner who is not a graduate, or who by time limit is not eligible to membership in the National Dental Association and many other societies, it matters little how competent and skillful he may be as an operator or mechanic is badly handicapped for the reason that he cannot, as a member, represent his State or take part in any of the discussions when these societies have under consideration the dental laws and the duties of Commissioners or the examining boards.

The members of the Board held their first meeting in Hartford, August 2nd, 1893, in the Supreme Court rooms in the State Capitol. Dr. Civilion Fones of Bridgeport was elected President and Dr. Geo. L. Parmele of Hartford as Recorder. Dr. Charles McManus was present to assist the Recorder and Dr. James McManus as an ex-Commissioner was there by invitation in a sociable way to listen and to join in the talk over the dental law, the powers and duties of the Commissioners and the necessity of getting a full registration of the dentists who were in practice before the passage of the law, May 25th, 1893. At considerable labor and expense I had secured some years previous a very correct list of the dentists of the State, and later additions were made through the kindness of Mr. S. M. Vredenburgh which were given to the Recorder, and it was then voted that he should make out a form of

application for registration and submit it for approval at the next meeting.

The second meeting was held in New Haven, September 23rd, 1893. The full Board was present. The form of application prepared by the Recorder was adopted and November 15th was named as the limit for receiving applications for registration. The Recorder and his assistants, believing that the dentists would appreciate having a certificate that bore on its face evidence of an official character as well as one attractive and ornamental that they could frame and hang in their office for public inspection. Dr. Charles McManus made a pen drawing after the style of a college diploma, with the State Coat of Arms and a seal bearing in its center the head of the discoverer of Anæsthesia and underneath his name, Horace Wells; the seal to be surrounded by an ornamental border enclosing the words "Dental Commissioners of Connecticut."

The Board approved of the design and to meet the expense of certificates of this character the Board decided to ask a registration fee of two dollars. There was one dentist living in Hartford at that time with whom the Board had had no communication as he did not apply for registration, but he openly found fault with the action of the Board and he made a complaint to the Prosecuting Attorney against the Recorder for extorting money. Dr. Parmele was summarily ordered by a policeman to appear before the Attorney to answer to the charge, and when he appeared the Attorney was disposed to be high handed in his manner and talk. Dr. Parmele referred him to Judge McManus of the City Court, the attorney for the Board, when a ray of light dawned upon him, and the interview assumed a more peaceful character and the subsequent proceedings interested the Attorney no more. If there were others who thought the registration fee too high we feel confident that when they received their certificates two months later they were pleased and satisfied that their two dollars was money well invested.

The preliminary work now required a quantity of letter paper, envelopes, postage stamps, and the printed forms of application, and as all these had a money value, the members and ex-member had the not rare privilege of putting their hands in their pockets and advancing the money to meet these expenses. The Recorder,

early in October, sent out to each dentist in the State two application forms for him to fill out and make oath as to its correctness before a Justice of the Peace or Notary Public, and to return both copies to him. With the applications he sent plain and carefully worded instructions as to how they should be filled out, and one would expect that his wishes would be complied with but in a great many instances extra letters and applications had to be mailed, and in some cases even a third time, before they were returned to him correctly filled out.

The law permitted any one who had done dental work in Connecticut previous to May 25th, 1893, to continue in the practice of dentistry. The Law, Section 7, reads: "Said Commissioners may make such rules of procedure for the regulation of all matters of application and hearing before them as they may think advisable."

The Commissioners made every effort to get an accurate list of all who claimed a right to practice, as the form of application and the questions to be answered will show:

## To the Dental Commissioners of Connecticut.

Margin Reserved for Binding.  
No Mutilated Statement will be Received.

.....Conn.,.....189  
Having been engaged in the practice of Dentistry in this State prior to the passage, May 25, 1893, of the law Concerning the Practice of Dentistry, the undersigned hereby files his application with the Recorder of the Dental Commissioners of Connecticut, for Registration as a Dental Practitioner.

1. Name in full..... 2. Age.....Years.
3. Birthplace,.....
4. Present Residence,.....
5. Graduate of a Dental College?..... Yes or No. 6. If so, date of Graduation?.....  
Year.
7. Of what College?.....  
Give Corporate name.
8. How long have you been in practice in this State in an office owned and controlled by yourself or as partner?...
9. If in partnership, who was your partner?.....
10. How long have you practiced elsewhere?.....  
Name in full.
11. Who was your preceptor?.....
12. What was his residence and address during your pupilage?..... 13. What was your length of pupilage?.....

I certify that the above is a true statement.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT, }  
.....County. } ..... 189

Personally appeared.....  
and made oath that the foregoing statements subscribed to by him are true, before me,

*Justice of the Peace.  
Notary Public.  
Commissioner of the Superior Court.*

Certificate of Registration No. .... was issued  
..... 189

### SPECIAL NOTICE.

SIR:—Every dentist in practice in this State before the passage of the Dental Law, May 25, 1893, must register in order to be recognized as in legal practice by the Dental Commissioners, and to be protected by them.

Fill out both blanks furnished you, make oath to the statements on each and return BOTH of them BEFORE NOVEMBER 15th to the Recorder, enclosing the Registration fee of \$2.00.

If by mail, it should be a money order or registered letter. No checks received. A certificate of Registration will be returned.

Respectfully,  
GEO. L. PARMELE, Recorder.

The Commissioners were obliged to accept all who applied for Registration in due form, but they were very careful that no certificate was given out until they had in their possession legal evidence to show, in case any question arose, why the certificate was granted.

During October and up to November 15th the returns were coming in daily. Many of them had to be destroyed and new forms sent out for corrections and extra letters were called for answering inquiries, so that the Recorder had to put in extra hours of close work, many times running far into the night. Every one of the returned applications were carefully examined by at least three persons and then they were ready for the approval of the full Board. During this time the design for the seal and certificate was being engraved by the Geo. H. Ford Co. of New Haven. The certificate, as you all know, is beautifully engraved and is a very attractive one. After November 15th, the time limit as set by the Board for applications to be received, Dr. Charles McManus had the privilege and pleasure of numbering three hundred and forty-nine of these certificates and on each one writing in the name, place of residence, county, and date of issue, so that the members of the Board at the proper time could sign them without any delay.

The next, third, meeting of the Board was held in my house, 32 Pratt St., Hartford, Nov. 23d, 1897, when three hundred and forty-nine certificates for registered dentists were signed by each member of the Board. One can hardly realize what a task this was. It is safe to say that it was trying and tiresome. With such assistance as my sons and self could give to them they had a full day's steady work, each one in turn signing the three hundred and forty-nine certificates, and in addition to this work they examined the first applicant for a license which was also granted at this session.

The work done by the Commissioners during their first term was apparently satisfactory, and on the election of the Hon. O. Vincent Coffin of Middletown as Governor he wisely reappointed the Board and indirectly honored the profession by appointing Doctor Charles P. Graham, one of the Commissioners, on his Staff as Adjutant General. During the second term the duties were less exacting and arduous and as the members were working harmoniously together, it was thought it would be best for all concerned

if no changes were made in the Board for another term. A few weeks after the inauguration ceremonies, early in January, 1897, I called at the Governor's room at the State Capitol, sent in my card and was received by his Excellency Governor Cooke. I told him I called as the representative of the State Dental Association; that it was my duty to call and to report to him regarding the practical working of the Dental Law, the efficiency of the Board of Dental Commissioners, and to offer any information that I might possess that would interest or be of any service to him. I told him that the men appointed by Governor Morris were recommended to him by a committee from the State Dental Association; that they were men of superior reputation and ability, and the fact that they were all republican did not weigh against them when Governor Morris decided to give them their commission. I told him that Governor Coffin reappointed them and that they had been doing faithful work, everything was going along satisfactorily, and that if he would reappoint them he would, in my opinion, please the dentists of the State and would certainly make no mistake. The Governor then told me that only one dentist had applied for a place on the Commission and he asked me if I knew anything about that one. I replied that I had probably met him at some of the dental meetings but would offer no opinion as to his qualifications for the position from lack of personal knowledge, but I was certain that the present Commissioners were fully qualified in every respect and that I believed the best interests of the State and the Dentists would be secured if the entire Board should be reappointed for one more term.

A few minutes conversation regarding the Dental Law and the personnel of the members of the Board followed, after which the Governor thanked me for calling and very cordially invited me to call again. I left the room with very pleasant impressions of Governor Cooke.

I expected to see the member of the Association who was an applicant for a place on the Commission at the annual meeting in May, 1897, but he was not there, and so far as I have been able to learn he has never shown any special or active interest in the meetings of the State Dental Association since he was elected a member. In the Code of Ethics, Article 2, Section 1, we may read as follows: "A member of the dental profession is

bound to maintain its honor and to labor earnestly to extend its sphere of usefulness. He should avoid everything in language and conduct calculated to discredit or dishonor his profession and should ever manifest a due respect for his brethren, etc., etc."

Every dentist has a legal right to aspire to and work for a place on the Commission but it should be done in an open and manly way, thereby avoiding all appearance of casting discredit or dishonor on any one, as well as manifesting due respect for his professional brethren as the Code of Ethics commands.

The last week in June the announcement was made that the members of the Board appointed by Governor Morris and re-appointed by Governor Coffin were satisfactory to Governor Cooke, with one exception; that one was dropped and a new man appointed. Many of the dentists of the State were very much surprised and they were also very curious to learn just who the politicians were who got the President of the Board displaced and the new man appointed. Changes were to be expected in time but it was not thought probable that they would be brought about by politicians or that possibly a professional lobbyist might have influence with the appointing power. A precedent has, unfortunately, been established and hereafter capable men if any such should be suggested, will hesitate before they accept a position on the Board.

July 3d, 1897, I sent to the *Dental Cosmos* the following "Open Letter":

[Reprinted from the DENTAL COSMOS, August, 1897.]

### AN OPEN LETTER

TO THE EDITOR OF THE DENTAL COSMOS:

*Sir*:—Will you kindly give me space to place on record a few facts? There are a few among the older men in dentistry that know me personally, and they also know that I have tried to be in touch with any movement that has been made for the welfare of the dental profession. Many also know that I have felt proud of Connecticut's record and the Connecticut dental law, and the personnel of the Dental Commissioners. The Dental Commission has existed four years, and the profession have been thoroughly satisfied, and no one has heard the slightest

complaint against any one of its members. The fact that every individual on the commission was selected originally by Governor Morris (an old-time Democrat), and that no one of them sought the appointment by himself or through his friends, made the circumstance that the entire commission was Republican in politics of so little moment that it was unnoticed. The problem of constructing a state commission wholly regardless of political considerations, and with a single eye to the welfare of the state, was solved by the simple method of leaving the question of appointment just where it had been placed by the wisdom of the Legislature—in the judgment of the Executive. A radical departure from this custom leaves the inference irresistibly to be drawn that, like almost all other commissions, this too must be hereafter conscripted into the service of paying political debts. Without any complaint against him, or any demand or desire, or even apprehension of such an event on the part of the State Dental Association, Dr. Civilion Fones, president of the commission, was displaced at the last moment, and a young, comparatively unknown dentist was thrust upon the board without any adequate opportunity for the profession to be heard. If our respected Governor hears mutterings to the effect that all important State offices are to be considered as makeweights for retaining the caucus favor and friendship of local bosses, he will, with his well-known candor, give his own administration a searching review, and ask himself if such criticism is not perfectly natural. Should he detect in the play of listening features something akin to incredulity, or even a sneer, when the fundamental principles of civil service reform are eloquently advocated during the next campaign, he ought not to think it strange. If his Excellency made this change for the good of the State and the profession, we submit that it is not unreasonable that the profession should be so assured. They have every right to regard the promotion of a man to a place on this commission as a recognition of merit—an expression of belief that the efficacy of the commission will be increased thereby. Had a vacancy existed such an appointment might have caused a mild surprise, followed by a patient experiment of watching for the next year the new man's success or want of it. But when a thoroughly-trying, competent, and satisfactory member—chosen by his associates as their official head—is unceremoniously tossed aside to make room for this unexpected newcomer, a man who is not a dental graduate, and who has shown but little, if any, interest in professional affairs, the dental profession will and do regard it as a surrender of the commission to the control of the bosses; a surrender all the more surprising since it was made during an administration that, by reason of its elevation to power by such a phenomenal majority, was independent of political bosses and managers as no administration ever was before in Connecticut. Dental examining

boards composed of representative, competent men are certain to be of infinite value to the public and the profession. If, however, they are to be composed, in part even, of self-seeking individuals who represent only themselves and local politicians, who surely can have no accurate knowledge as to the peculiar fitness of their proteges for the position, but who can place them, owing to their ability as wire-pullers, then we may as well recognize the fact that examining boards and dental commissions may become a decided menace, rather than a benefit to the public and the profession. It was a pleasant but vain hope that Connecticut might continue to hold a record for clean, non-political appointments, and I am sure that it is with sincere regret that the professional dentists of the country will learn of this new departure.

Yours very truly,

JAS. McMANUS, D.D.S.

HARTFORD, CONN., July 3, 1897.

In the open letter I did not question the legal power of the Governor to make appointments, or attempt to limit the number of office seekers. As chairman of the committee on dental legislation it was my duty to inform the dentists of Connecticut and the country through the *Dental Cosmos*, the leading dental journal of the world, that a change had been made in the Dental Board and that it had been effected, not in the interests of the public or the dentists, but that it was a personal, unethical and political achievement.

The *Cosmos* was distributed during the August meetings of the American and Southern Dental Associations, the National Association of College Faculties, and the National Board of Dental Examiners at the annual meetings held at Old Point Comfort, Virginia, in August, 1897. The members of these associations were from a majority of the States in the Union. There were among them teachers from thirty or more dental educational institutions, and delegates from nearly all the State examining boards. These representative dentists were informed of the change that had been made through political influence and the facts clearly brought to their notice so that they could seriously consider the outlook regarding the possible character and make-up of future boards with whom they might be obliged to confer. The welfare of the public and the judicious enforcement of dental laws depends

on moral character, honesty, education and special theoretical and practical ability of the men appointed as dental commissioners or examiners. I firmly believed when I wrote the open letter, and do at the present time, that it is the wish and hope of the great majority of the practicing dentists in Connecticut and the country that professional qualifications and high moral character alone should be considered when appointments are to be made. I purposely and charitably omitted to mention the name of the dentist that secured the appointment, thinking that he, like some others in different walks in life that had gained positions of honor and power through personal efforts, might in time through contact and friction with better men gain a measure of success in the office they were boosted up to and gained only through political influence.

The open letter told what a "political pull" had accomplished, and the October number of the *Items of Interest* gave an equally good illustration of the power of hypnotism, for three Bridgeport dentists, evidently by suggestion, or direction, wrote or signed letters, prepared for them, and the editor of the *Items of Interest* published them. All the letters, especially the one signed by S. P. Cronana, D. D. S., accuse the *Cosmos* of publishing "a wholly unjust and malicious attack" on Dr. C. B. Baker. The *Cosmos* did nothing of the kind, for his name was not mentioned. The *Cosmos* from its start has sustained a clean and honorable reputation. A malicious or ungentlemanly attack, however, forwarded to them, would have been thrown into the waste basket, and never would have been allowed to sully its pages. The letters in the *Items of Interest* dated October 16th, 15th and 14th illustrated the old adage the last shall be first, and each one, while professing to be a reply to the "Open letter" was in reality an attack on the old Commissioners, who, with one exception, had been reappointed by Governor Cooke. These letters were so foolish, ignorant\* and untruthful that were it not for the one that contained slanderous and libelous charges against the honor and integrity of the members of the Board they might well have been allowed to pass unnoticed.

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\*The following letters are printed EXACTLY as they appeared in the ITEMS OF INTEREST under the page heading of Book Reviews. Half the proper names, including two signatures, are spelt wrong.

From *Items of Interest*, Oct. 1897, page 815:

To the Editor ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Sir:—Lord Tennyson wrote, "The old order changeth, giving place to new, lest one good custom should corrupt the world." I, for one of the dentists of Bridgeport and this State, fail to see the justice of the attack upon Dr. Baker, of this city, which recently appeared in print in *The Dental Cosmos*. I believe I voice the sentiments of the younger members of the profession, when I say that the appointment of Dr. Baker to the office of Dental Commissioner is not displeasing to them, As for charges that he is not well known, and so very young, they are an evidence only that the author of the attack does not know the doctor or his history to any extent. I am prepared to say that his abilities range above the average practitioner, and his practical training was far superior to that which could have been obtained in any dental school of which I know. Perhaps the only inexperience of which he could be rightly charged is that he failed to sit the prescribed number of years at the feet of some of our professional gentlemen in the State Dental Society, which, it may be, is really essential for one to become what is called "experienced." The idea that a man must be old to be considered proficient has long been abandoned by thinking people, and, on the other hand, it has been proven that new methods and ideas do not always find a place in the office and practice of some of the old and "experienced." I say, "All honor to him to whom honor is due," and respect for age, but let us not clog the wheels of progress, nor render void the force of competition.

Some of the newspapers have unnecessarily attacked Dr. Baker personally, there evidently being more cause for the venom than appears on the surface.

Dr. Baker possessed full rights as a candidate for Commissionership, and his appointment to that office by the Governor was in all respects proper. Not in any way did he overstep his authority, and the appointment should not be criticised, when the only grounds for so doing are those of jealousy, bigotry, or, perhaps, malice. Very truly,

F. H. JACKMAN, D.D.S.

Bridgeport, August 14, 1897.

If I did not think F. H. Jackman, D. D. S., August 14th 1897, was under hypnotic influence I would say that he had the right to express an opinion even if it was a foolish one, but whether he "voices the sentiments of the younger men in the profession"

may well be doubted. He says "the author of the attack." He ought to have said the writer of the open letter "does not know the Doctor," which was true, or his history to any extent. I happen to have in my collection a scrap of history. It is a copy of an advertisement taken from the Bridgeport *Evening Standard* of May 9th, 1884, and it was continued for one month. I only wish to call your attention to the displayed head line

C. B. BAKER, D. D. S.

Referring to the records kept by the recorder of the Dental Commission we find no mention made by C. B. Baker, in his application for registration made under oath October 4th, 1893, in answer to inquiries Nos. 5-6-7, of the college he attended or that he was graduate, or that he had even an honorary degree conferred on him, so we must charitably assume that the title D. D. S. was conferred by the printer alone, and escaped the notice of the advertiser. Dr. Jackman jocosely says that perhaps his friend could be rightly charged with inexperience because he had failed to sit the prescribed number of years at the feet of some of the professional gentleman of the State Dental Society. Probably it would have been no disparagement if he had done so. As Dr. Jackman did sit at the feet of some of the professional gentlemen of the State Dental Association long enough to gain through them a vote of the Association granting him a beneficiary scholarship in the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, he ought to know the value of their good will, and he has shown his appreciation since by failing to take any interest in the Association, and like another "Daniel come to judgment" presumes to tell his elders that they should not criticise the Governor for his appointment. We all know the Governor did not overstep his authority, but he did make an appointment that many thoughtful men at the time seriously criticised and regarded as unfortunate and I have yet to learn of any of these gentlemen since that time having changed their opinion. All the governor's appointments are supposed to be legal, and all of them are more or less criticised, and when anyone writes or says that the open letter which stated facts that no one as yet has attempted to refute and that criticised the Governor for a political appointment was instigated by jealousy, bigotry or perhaps malice, he or they utter a deliberate and malicious *lie*.

From *Items of Interest*, Oct. 1897, page 814 :

To the Editor ITEMS OF INTEREST.

It was with surprise and dismay that I read the attack in the *Cosmos* upon Dr. C. B. Baker, who has recently been appointed Dental Commissioner by our Governor, and knowing him to have long occupied an enviable position in the western part of the State, and having a *clientele* of the best families here, I must conclude that the letter resulted from a personal animus and was wholly unwarranted.

Dr. Baker came to Connecticut in 1881, and to this city in 1883, and was associated for three years with a gentleman who was recently president of the Association. After the Society was reorganized, his name was proposed for membership, and his application signed by two well known dentists; he has remained a member ever since, strictly living up to the Code of Ethics. The writer to the *Cosmos* says that the previous incumbent "was displaced at the last minute"; that is not true, as can be proven. It was known, positively, that there was to be a change at the May meeting, and the appointment was not made till July. Every known effort was made to induce His Excellency to change his mind, but he (Governor Cooke) knew that the State Dental Society was composed of about one-sixth of the dentists of the State, and that it was only fair that the other five-sixths should have some representation.

Dr. McManus makes the assertion that Dr. Baker is not a college graduate. This was known years ago when the name of the latter was proposed for membership. There are only two on the Board, as it now exists, who have degrees. \*Dr. McManus himself is not a graduate, although he makes use of the title—D. D. S. This degree, a purely honorary one, was bestowed after he had been in practice some years.

While having the most cordial relations with the honored gentleman whom Dr. Baker succeeds, I cannot but feel that our profession is to be the gainer by the infusion of new life into the Commission, and congratulate ourselves that so able a man has been appointed.

C. E. SPAULDING.

Bridgeport, Aug. 15, 1897.

C. E. Spaulding, dentist, the writer of the second letter, dated August 15th, 1897, concludes that the open letter in the *Cosmos*, which he read with surprise and dismay, "resulted from a personal animus, and was wholly unwarranted." That is not true. He

\*If C. E. Spaulding, dentist, had referred to his copy of the year book furnished to each member of the Connecticut State Dental Association, he would have learned that Jas. McManus, D.D.S., was graduated at the Philadelphia Dental College in the Class of 1865.

says his friend, since his election as a member of the State Dental Association, has strictly lived up to the code of ethics. If C. E. Spaulding had carefully read the wording alone, ignoring the spirit of Article 2, Section 1, of the code, he might have omitted that statement. He says that it was positively known at the May meeting that a change was to be made in the Commission. I would believe that statement if I heard Governor Cooke make it, but certainly not on Spaulding's or any other man's say-so. He says that every known effort was made to induce the Governor to change his mind. That is a lie. I know a great many dentists who did not know that a change was to be made, neither did they call on his Excellency to offer any advice or protest, and further I do not believe that three dentists in the State either called or wrote to him with reference to his appointments on the Board or in opposition to any one of them. C. E. Spaulding states that Governor Cooke knew that the State Dental Society was composed of about one-sixth of the dentists of the State, and that it was only fair that the other five-sixths should have some representation.

Governor Cooke was probably told that story, but he could not have known it, for it is not true. The State Dental Association has over one hundred members, and there are not over six hundred dentists practicing in Connecticut. The official report of the Recorder gives the names and residence of less than four hundred legally practicing in this State, and the reckless statement of C. E. Spaulding gives the impression that Governor Cooke, acting on false information, displaced President Fones from the Commission because the Board, under his administration, was inefficient and negligent in allowing two hundred dentists to practice in Connecticut without being either registered or licensed. C. E. Spaulding has been a member of this Association since 1894. The Secretary has sent to all the members the year book published by the Association, and if he had read it carefully he might have been familiar with the names and known just how many were on its roll of membership. He might also have known the wording, and, possibly, just what was meant by the code of ethics, which, as a member, he was expected to live up to. There seems to be no reasonable excuse for the ignorant, reckless and untrue statements which he allowed to be published in a monthly journal over his signature.

From *Items of Interest*, Oct. 1897, page 813:

TO THE EDITOR ITEMS OF INTEREST.

The August issue of the *Cosmos* contained a wholly unjust, entirely malicious attack on Dr. C. B. Baker, one of the most respected and competent members of the dental profession, protesting against his appointment on the Dental Commission.

It was of course intended only for the journal in which it appeared, and the whole matter was a question of ethics concerning few except those in the practice of dentistry.

The letter has been copied in many of the New England papers, and some of the more sensational ones have enlarged greatly upon it. The method taken to drag a professional gentleman of high repute before the public on so flimsy a pretext, is unworthy of decent journalism.

There may be a few of the older dentists, like Dr. McManus, who hate to see any new blood come into the commission.

Drs. Graham, Parmlee, Brown, Ryder and Fones practically appointed themselves when the commission was created four years ago. They are all old timers, and hardly abreast of the times.

Their administration of their duties has shown to many of us that there was good reason for a change. In a number of cases of which I personally know, these gentlemen gave certificates to applicants who had no right to them under the law. The members of the Commission view with alarm any change in the personnel, although why they should feel themselves entitled to life positions is hard to understand. The advent of younger men and more enterprising blood into their ranks has apparently frightened them, and those remaining seem to feel that possibly their time may soon come also.

One thing may be put down for fact, and that is that Dr. McManus does not hold the reins over all the dentists in the State. By far the majority are with Dr. Baker in this affair. Dr. McManus tries to make light of Dr. Baker's position in the dental profession, etc., when it is a fact that he has attended more dental conventions and has an acquaintance among more of the leading dentists than almost any other dentist in this vicinity. The matter of graduate or non-graduate has nothing to do with the case. If a man is competent and has had the necessary experience, nothing else is required. Dr. Baker is regarded by his brother dentists as fully qualified in every sense, and the envied position which he occupies in this city, attests to his worth and popularity. The whole matter resolved itself into a question of sour grapes. The few older members who manage the State Society are jealous of some of the younger members, and to see one secure a place on the Dental Commission makes them writhe.

If it comes to a question of graduating, why not bring the other members to account? They are old, respected, and proficient, but with three exceptions, are not graduates. Dr. Baker has practiced for eighteen years, fifteen years having been spent in Connecticut. He can hardly be called an unknown quantity as Dr. McManus tries to make out.

S. P. CRONANA, D.D.S.

Bridgeport, Conn., August 16, 1897.

The malicious and libelous letter of August 16th, 1897, signed by S. P. Cronana, D. D. S., says that "the August issue of the *Cosmos* contained a wholly unjust, entirely malicious attack on Dr. C. B. Baker." That is a lie.

Also, "That Drs. Graham, Parmele, Browne, Rider and Fones practically appointed themselves when the Commission was created four years ago." That is another lie.

"That the administration of their duties has shown to many of us that there was good reason for a change. In a number of cases, of which I personally know, these gentlemen gave certificates to applicants who had no right to them under the law." Another lie.

"The members of the Commission view with alarm any change in the personnel, although why they should feel themselves entitled to life positions is hard to understand."

All of the above statements are maliciously foolish and false; while the writer further shows his ignorance of the dental law and the qualifications required, in the statement "If a man is competent and has had the necessary experience nothing else is required."

It is a privilege, that many in private life exercise, to ignore and treat with silent contempt all attacks made on their actions, ability and character; but when a man accepts an official position, either as a State Reform School or State's Prison Director, Bank or Insurance Commissioner, Dental Commissioner or any responsible position in the gift of the State or through the favor of the Governor, it is expected that he will not only faithfully attend to all the duties of his official position, but that his ability, discretion and honesty will be open to public criticism, and all his actions, if thought proper, be subjected to thorough investigation.

It is the duty of an editor to guard against the appearance of slanderous and libelous communications in his paper or journal, and if charges of that character do appear, it is taken as evidence of either ignorance or careless supervision on his part. We do not think the editor of the *Items of Interest* is ignorant or careless, but he did allow the questionable letters to appear in his journal. Perhaps the word blunder (diplomatically said to be worse than a crime) may explain why one of the writers was given space to attack in a scurrilous and libelous manner State officials, men eminent in the profession for their ability, and men who, up to the appearance of the slanderous statements published in his journal, had sustained unsullied reputations as citizens of Connecticut. Explanations or excuses cannot sufficiently atone for the annoyance and, often, serious injury inflicted on honorable citizens by careless editors when such charges are allowed to appear in print.

The malicious and libelous charges in the Cronana letter were so positively stated that I felt it my duty, as Chairman of the Committee on Dental Legislation, November 2, 1897, to call the attention of each member of the Board to them, and to suggest that the writer be invited to appear before the full Board, at an early day, and give to them the information which he claimed to possess. I also sent a copy of the notice to the ex-President of the Board as the alleged illegal acts were said to have been committed under his administration, and for which it was asserted there were good reasons for a change to be made in the Commission. As the Governor had but recently reappointed four of the members the charge was a reflection on the Governor as well as the Commissioners.

The notice was an official one, and I received courteous replies from four of the members. The new member did not sense the gravity of the charges made against the Board, or to realize that it was his duty, with the others, to thoroughly investigate them. From his letter in reply of November 10th, 1897, I quote the following: "I am much too busy at the present time, and life is too short to notice or reply to magazine articles."

The man that Governor Cooke, through the influence of one or more politicians, put in the place of Dr. Fones to represent, as was published in the *Items of Interest*, the five hundred dentists

who were not members of the State Dental Association; the man who lived in Bridgeport, from whence these slanders were sent out, and who was an acquaintance of the men who allowed their names, for over two months without a protest, to appear as the writers of the untruthful letters, and the man who ought to have felt a personal and professional interest in the reputation of the members of the Board with whom he was to be officially connected, curtly served notice "That he was too busy at the present time, and life was too short" to attend to the duty of investigating charges published in a dental journal reflecting on the ability, integrity and honor of a Commission of which he had but recently been made a member.

"The old timers that were hardly abreast of the times," and who were slanderously accused of "practically appointing themselves when the Commission was created four years ago" (all of which is a lie), were not so old, or so busy, and life was not too short for them to attend to the duties of their office.

The past year has been prolific with alleged official mismanagement and reports of investigations, and it was perhaps fortunate that the Commissioners were given this opportunity to invite public attention to the work they had done. The Commissioners were not disposed to ignore charges, which though obviously foolish and untruthful and made by writers comparatively unknown, yet they had been given publicity through the pages of a dental journal.

The following advertisement appeared in Hartford papers, commencing November 27th and continuing until December 11th, 1897:

"The Dental Commissioners of Connecticut will meet in the Capitol at Hartford, December 11th, at three o'clock, for the election of officers, and will at that time listen to any complaints that may be laid before them.

"GEO. L. PARMELE, M. D., D. M. D., *Recorder.*"

This call was published in two daily papers in Hartford, as the law directs, thus giving due notice and ample time for the preparation and presentation of any complaint or protest against the rulings, decisions, discretionary actions, or any grievance, real or

fancied, that might be entertained by any one against any one, or of all the members of the Board since its organization.

The Recorder sent a special notice to S. P. Cronana, D. D. S., respectfully inviting him to attend and to give to the Commissioners the information of which he had personal knowledge, that would sustain the charges made in his letter to the *Items of Interest*.

I attended the meeting in the Supreme Court room in the Capitol at the time appointed, thinking the public notice for two weeks previous in the newspapers might attract spectators and possibly some one with a complaint. I freely admit that I had no expectation of seeing present any one of the three hypnotized correspondents to the *Items of Interest*, in view of the fact that every one who knew the Commissioners was, and ever had been, convinced that the charges their letters contained were absolutely without the shadow of foundation; but I confess that I was surprised when the Recorder read the emphatic denial in Dr. Cronana's letter of all participation on his part and his declaration, expressed to be sure in other but not less positive language, that his alleged signature was a forgery. If ever one was called upon, then and there, by the ethics of Christianity and civilization to explain how he came to be imposed upon, so that he became the effective instrument for publishing a fabricated accusation over a forged signature, it was the new Commissioner, and he should have done it instantly, if not for the sake of his slandered associates, at least for his own; but possibly he hoped that "silence, like a poultice, would cover it all."

While listening to the disclaimer of Dr. Cronana, "the wonder grew" why he waited over two months after the appearance of the letter in the journal, and seven days after his attention was called to it by the Recorder of the Commission, before he declared the letter to be a forgery. The Commissioners talked the matter over at length, the new Commissioner taking part, and later the Board instructed the Recorder to communicate with the editor of the *Items of Interest*.

In the February number, 1898, of that journal, pages 125-129, there is an editorial explanation and the following statements: Statements copied from *Items of Interest* :

## CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS.

## REPLY TO CRITICS.

Hartford, Jan. 6, 1898.

Editor ITEMS OF INTEREST.

My Dear Sir:—In the recent number of your magazine, page 813, there was published a correspondence over the signature S. P. Cronana, D.D.S., dated Bridgeport, Conn., October 16, 1897, containing the following statements, referring to the Dental Commissioners of Connecticut:

“Drs. Graham, Parmele, Rider, Browne and Fones practically appointed themselves, when the commission was created four years ago. They are all old timers and hardly abreast of the times. Their administration of their duties has shown to many of us that there was good reason for a change. In a number of cases of which I personally know, these gentlemen gave certificates to applicants who had no right to them under the law.”

The members of the Dental Commission could not allow so grave an accusation directly against themselves and also against an indefinite number of members of the dental profession to appear in the columns of a reputable magazine and pass unnoticed.

The above quoted notice charged the commissioners with indecent self favoritism in their appointment, and with deliberate official misconduct or reprehensible negligence or both in their administration and also charged misrepresentation on the part of “a number” of dentists holding certificates of the legal right to practice in this State. The Dental Commissioners, therefore, felt that their official, as well as personal honor demanded a prompt and thorough investigation, and they thereupon sent the following letter to the address that was appended to the correspondence of August 16, 1887, that appeared in your magazine October, 1897:

Hartford, Dec. 3, 1897.

S. P. Cronana, D. D. S., Bridgeport, Conn.

Dear Sir:—There has appeared in the pages of ITEMS OF INTEREST, “a monthly magazine of Dental Art, Science and Literature,” and published by the Consolidated Dental Manufacturing Company of New York (in the October number, 1897), a correspondence over your signature which charges the Dental Commissioners with having given to applicants, who had no right to them under the law—certificates of right

under the law to practice dentistry in this State. You state in said correspondence, that the Dental Commissioners have done this in a number of cases to your personal knowledge, thus publicly charging the commissioners with negligent and illegal conduct in their official duties, and also charging several unnamed practitioners in this State with having fraudulently obtained their licenses or certificates of legal authority to practice under the laws of Connecticut.

In either case the charges are too serious to be passed over without official notice. The honor of the commission and simple justice to the members of the profession who have rigidly observed the law require that so serious a charge should be thoroughly investigated and the parties in fault properly corrected.

You are, therefore, respectfully invited to attend the session of the Dental Commissioners at the State Capitol at Hartford on Saturday, December 11, at three P. M., and give the commissioners the information of which you have personal knowledge that sustains the charges so made by you in said correspondence above referred to.

Yours respectfully,

GEO. L. PARMELE, Dent. Com. and Recorder.

The commissioners gave public notice of their session at the State Capitol by inserting in the Hartford daily newspapers the following advertisement, which appeared on the following date: November 27 and remained in until December 11:

The Dental Commissioners of Connecticut will meet in the Capitol at Hartford, Saturday, December 11, at three o'clock for the election of officers and will at that time listen to any complaints that may be laid before them.

GEO. L. PARMELE, M. D., D. M. D., Recorder.

On December 11, 1897, Dr. Parmele, recorder of the Dental Commissioners, received the following letter, which was submitted to the full board of commissioners at said meeting:

Bridgeport, Conn., December 10, 1897.

G. L. Parmele, M. D., D. M. D., Dental Commissioner and Recorder, Hartford, Conn.

Dear Doctor:—Your letter or notice of Dec. 3, 1897, inviting me to attend the session of the Dental Commissioners to be held at the State Capitol, Hartford, Dec. 11, 1897, and give the commissioners the information of which I have personal knowledge that sustains the charges made in a letter published in *ITEMS OF INTEREST*, Vol. XIX, No. 10, October, and purporting to have been signed by me, received. I should be pleased to meet your board, but as I neither wrote, nor signed, nor caused to be sent the letter referred to, to *ITEMS OF INTEREST*, I see no reason for such appearance. Trusting that this statement may cover the information you desire, I am, yours very truly,

S. P. CRONAN, D. D. S.

December 10, 1897.

No one appeared at said meeting to offer any proof of said charges. Dr. Cronan's letter was read and the commissioners requested the recorder to write to your magazine a brief statement of the matter including what had been done by the commissioners in the premises and also giving the correspondence with Dr. Cronan, whose name had been fraudulently used as accuser of the Dental Commission, with a request that you would give this as free and prominent a place in your columns as was given to the Cronan letter of August 16, 1897. Dr. Cronan's letter of December 10, 1897, shows that your magazine was imposed upon in a shameful and criminal manner by some person as yet unknown to you or to the Dental Commissioners. Up to this time you have known nothing of this matter, and we assume that Dr. Cronan's first knowledge of the appearance of the fraudulent letter in ITEMS OF INTEREST was on his receipt of my letter of December 3, 1897, otherwise he would have promptly and emphatically repudiated its authorship. We will be pleased to receive any suggestions as to what course should be pursued in order to discover the perpetrator of this crime of imposing upon a public journal a forged libelous letter, and will cheerfully lend our labors to that end.

Very respectfully,

GEO. L. PARMELE, M. D., D. M. D.,  
Recorder and Dental Commissioner of Connecticut.

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### EXPLANATION OF OUR POSITION.

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The above communication from the State Board of Examiners of Connecticut caused us great surprise. The letters which were published, including the one supposed to have been written by Dr. Cronan reached us in such manner that we had reason to consider them authentic. Had they merely come to us through the mails, we would now be in no position to trace the Cronan letter back to its source. But as the three letters were personally delivered by Dr. Baker to one of the agents of the Consolidated Dental Manufacturing Company, there should be no difficulty in discovering the author of the letter now said to be a forgery.

Immediately upon receipt of the communication from the Secretary of the Connecticut Board the following letter was forwarded to Dr. Baker:

January 12, 1898.

Dr. C. B. Baker, Sanford Building, Bridgeport, Conn.

Dear Doctor:—

Some months ago we received from one of our branch houses three letters discussing your appointment on the State Examining Board. One of these was signed by Dr. Cronan, Bridgeport, Conn. I was informed that these letters were handed to you by the writers, and by you delivered to our house.

I have received a letter from the State Board of Examiners, informing me that Dr. Cronan denies the authorship of this letter. This places our magazine in an awkward position, and I trust that we may rely upon you to disclose the facts so that our position in the matter may be made clear. I should be much indebted if you will forward me a sworn affidavit, stating the exact facts in connection with the writing of the letters, to the effect that these letters, as I understand it, were given to you for publication and that you forwarded them to us. Of course, I wish to publish the complaint of the State Board.

Will you kindly give this prompt attention, as I wish the matter to appear in our next issue. Yours very truly,

R. OTTOLENGUI.

To this Dr. Baker sent the following reply, accompanied by the appended affidavit, which merely explains that he did not inspire the letters:

Bridgeport, Conn., January 14, 1898.

DR. OTTOLENGUI.

Dear Doctor:—Yours received. I much regret that those who wished to do me a kindness, yourself included, should be put to any inconvenience, but you will understand that I, too, find myself in an awkward position. I am sorry not to be able to do exactly as you request. I knew that the letter was to be published, although disclaiming sympathy with some of its sentiments. However, since the writer of the communication does not see fit to acknowledge its authorship, I cannot reveal the identity of the man who tried to take my part, or refer to other friendly offices in this unpleasant affair. I can, at least, answer for myself, and you will find enclosed a sworn statement.

Yours truly,

CHARLES B. BAKER.

I neither wrote, dictated or suggested the article which appeared in ITEMS OF INTEREST issue of October, 1897, signed "S. P. Cronan, D.D.S., Bridgeport, August 16, 1897."

Signed,

CHARLES B. BAKER.

Personally appeared Charles B. Baker, and made oath to the truth of the foregoing, before me

FREDERICK A. BARTLETT,

Justice of the Peace, Sanford Building.

Dated at Bridgeport, this 14th day of January, 1898.

The following is a sworn affidavit of the agent at the New Haven branch of the Consolidated, declaring that the letters were personally delivered by Dr. Baker to him, with the request that they be sent to the New York house for publication in ITEMS OF INTEREST:

New Haven, Conn., January 21, 1898.

This is to certify that I, Charles A. C. Kelly, of New Haven, Conn., as agent for the Consolidated Dental Manufacturing Co., of New York City, N. Y., received from Dr. C. B. Baker, of Bridgeport, Conn., the copies of the three (3) letters, signed respectively by Dr. S. P. Cronan, Dr. F. H. Jackman, and Dr. Spaulding, all of said Bridgeport, Conn.,

with accompanying request of said Dr. C. B. Baker that they be forwarded by me as said agent for publication to the ITEMS OF INTEREST, a dental journal published by said Consolidated Dental Manufacturing Co. in New York City, and that I, as said agent, accepted the letters from said Dr. Baker as genuine.

CHARLES A. C. KELLY.

Witness: H. B. PULSIFER.

Hartford, Conn., January 21, 1898.

Personally appeared Chas. A. C. Kelly, signer and sealer of the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged the same to be his free act and deed before me.

GEORGE E. TILTON,  
Notary Public.

At the time of publication we were under the impression that the letters had been handed to Dr. Baker by the writers, but as far as can be understood from the above letter from Dr. Baker, it would seem that he received them from an intermediary whose name he does not disclose. As Dr. Baker is a member of the Board which complains of the alleged forgery, if the Board desires to proceed further in this matter and discover the author of the imposition, it would seem a simple course is open to them. Let them insist that Dr. Baker explain how the letters came into his possession. The intermediary who handed them to him should be able to explain where and how they were obtained.

You may have noticed in the explanation offered by the editor that he expresses great surprise, and states that the letter was personally delivered to an agent of the Consolidated Dental Manufacturing Company by the new Commissioner. The new Commissioner admits furnishing the letter for publication, and the agent of the company makes oath to receiving, not one, but all three letters from the new Commissioner to be forwarded by him for publication in the journal. In the letter of November 10th, 1897, sent to me by the new Commissioner, he writes: "That it has never been my custom either to notice or reply to magazine articles. I am much too busy at the present time and life is too short to change my method."

The members of the Board, no doubt, remember what was said at the meeting held in the Capitol, December 11th, 1897, and they, and all who have taken any interest in the work and reputation of the Board, know that the editor of the *Items of Interest* suggested, in his explanation, "That the members of the Board insist that the new Commissioner explain how the letters came into his

possession," and, up to this time, neither an explanation or an apology has appeared in the journal or the newspapers.

I did not dream that Connecticut could furnish such a quartette, or that the country had a professed professional journal that would so eagerly accept and print slanderous and libelous letters attacking well-known professional men and state officials, from comparatively unknown writers, or that the open letter, written from a sense of duty, would call forth so quickly evidence that justified its publication.

It seems a duty to call your attention to the work that has been done in the past by a few of the members for the uplifting of dentistry and the personal benefit of every dentist. Previous to 1864 dentistry in Connecticut was considered a trade, and those who worked at it mechanics. The pioneer Connecticut dental graduates from the Baltimore Dental Association, the first dental college in the world, were Henry I. Stevens, D. D. S., class of 1852, who practiced for many years in New Haven, and Charles O. Hall, D. D. S., class of 1860, who practiced for several years in Hartford. On the books of the Recorder of the Dental Commission you can find the names of every practicing dentist in this State at the present time, and among them all you cannot find one who had either a medical or dental degree when this Association was organized in 1864. Dr. W. W. Sheffield, of New London, received a diploma from the Ohio Dental College in 1865; Jas. McManus, D. D. S., graduated in 1865 from the Philadelphia Dental College, and R. W. Browne, D. D. S., of New London, graduated in 1867 from the New York Dental College.

The call issued September 15th, 1864, for a meeting of dentists was the first step towards gaining professional recognition, and every meeting of dentists since then in Connecticut gave renewed assurance to the public that the dentists had set apart special days for social intercourse and mutual improvement, which meant that they were days for consultation, the consideration of special cases, and the best methods of treatment, opportunities to see and learn from expert clinical operators their methods, and to gain information regarding the use of new materials and remedies. While among the various exhibits they could see and examine the new instruments, appliances and the many mechanical inventions which are usually first brought to the notice of dentists

at these meetings, which are in reality post-graduate schools for imparting and gaining dental and medical knowledge, as well as for practical and clinical instruction in every department of dental work. If many dentists were slow in catching on to the good work the public was not so, for through the newspapers they learned that the dentists, who were in attendance at these meetings, were the gainers in knowledge that would enable them to more skillfully and intelligently serve their patients.

In 1876 the Association was incorporated under the laws of Connecticut and was thereby recognized as a professional and scientific association, and every dentist that read the newspapers and the journals at that time and up to the present, must know that all that has been gained for dentistry as a profession is the result of the efforts of the earlier and steadfast workers in the Associations of the country. The brief dental law that was passed March 31st, 1887, created little interest owing to important omissions in its construction and no efforts were therefore made to enforce it. The present law was secured through the efforts of the Committee and a few of the members who gave their time and services without expectation of personal gain, but because they hoped a just law would be of benefit to the public and future dentists. There were frequent meetings for consultation regarding the features of the law; several interviews with the attorney, and later, attendance at the hearings before the judiciary committee of the Legislature, all of which was a part of the duty of the Committee while the amount of time and money expended and lost by Drs. Gaylord, Rider, Barker, Parmele, and McManus, which they freely gave, amounted, at a low estimate, to over two hundred dollars. As usual the burden of labor, lost time and money expended was borne by the few, and as usual not at all appreciated by the many. The attorney who was retained to make a study of the dental laws of the different States and to draft the present law which is one of the best in the country; who presented it in the Legislature in 1891, and again in 1893; who appeared later before the judiciary committee to explain and advocate the passage of the law, and who interviewed Governor Morris by request of the Association with reference to the appointment of the Commissioners, rendered a bill for his services of only one hundred dollars. Those of you who have had any legal or court experience

can readily see how favored the Association was. As the Association that year had only (64) sixty-four members, and as there were over three hundred dentists in the State, you can easily figure how little each one of them was taxed to pay for procuring the law. It cost five of your members over two hundred dollars.

The expense to the sixty-four members of the Association was one hundred dollars and there were over two hundred dentists, many of whom were clamoring for a dental law who did not give one cent towards procuring it. I have told you how the Commissioners got their appointments and also called your attention to the lies in the Cronana letter which stated that they practically appointed themselves.

A brief statement of a part of the work done by the Commissioners may not only interest but also convince you that their duties have been both arduous and exacting. Each member soon learned that he would have to endure great personal inconvenience and annoyance; that he would be obliged to give up much of his leisure time to reviewing his past studies and reading up in the recent works on dentistry and medicine, that a general knowledge of the good old, as well as the new up-to-date methods, would require his careful consideration and that every department in dentistry—medical, surgical, operative and mechanical—would justly claim his attention if he desired to do conscientious work. Each member knew that the examination of each applicant for a license must be judicially and carefully conducted, or the reputation of the Board for ability and courtesy would be lowered in the estimation of the profession. All this was enough to cause anxiety, but in addition I doubt if any one, or all of them, ever dreamed how much of their time it would take from business hours, and as dentists are in the habit of estimating the value of each working hour, how much their income would be lessened by the demands on their time.

There have been, up to this year, eighteen (18) meetings of the Board. If you will allow for at least one day's time spent by each member in preparing the examination papers you can add ten days more, making in all twenty-eight days devoted by each member to commission work since their appointment. As each member might possibly during the long days in May earn in his office, say ten dollars a day, you can easily calculate the amount

each one might put down to profit and loss. I might give you an estimate of the number of letters that each member has been obliged to write in answer to letters of inquiry (and you all know what a bother that is at times), but I prefer to let them tell you if they will.

Of the Recorder, I can say that the clerical work that he has done during the past five years has been far more than many of us can realize—his preparation of examination papers and the sending of notices and letters to applicants for registration and license; the letters of inquiry that he has had to answer regarding the dental law and the character of the examinations; his correspondence and consultation with members of the Board, and his reports to the State Board of Health; altogether if we say that he has sent out over two thousand letters we are giving a low estimate of his work in this one direction. The frequent and long interruptions during office hours, and the calls by telephone from inconsiderate applicants, are another phase of the duties and the demands on the time and patience of the Recorder.

As all these men were actually forced to accept office through your presentation of their names to the Governor, and as they gave their best efforts and time to the work, and as time has a recognized value, the very low estimate we place on their services easily amounts to over two thousand dollars, that divided between them tells only in part what each one has given up in your service. These men did not seek the office, neither have they considered themselves entitled to life long appointments, but they have, with the added years become more competent to perform their duties.

Dr. Wm. Jarvie of Brooklyn has been a member of the New York Board of Examiners over twenty-one years, Dr. Wm. Carr of New York for sixteen years, and Dr. E. V. McLeod of New Bedford was a member and secretary of the Massachusetts board for eleven years up to his death last year. Others might be named who have given years of service, and neither the profession, the dentists, or the States, have suffered by the retention of such men in office. The first Board of Connecticut Commissioners have done faithful work. They deserve and should be given the sincere thanks of the association and we might justly add a vote of confidence with renewed assurances of cordial support.

As you all may have, noticed the Commissioners have been extremely conservative and judicial, but events occasionally demand that energetic and prompt measures be taken, and members of our profession even if they are State officials can by a forcible expression of indignation when called for, more quickly clear the atmosphere. A just criticism can be made that our Commissioners have been too conservative, considerate and charitable in treating the recent conditions.

At the preliminary meeting thirty-four years ago there were twenty-nine dentists who signed the Constitution and of that number there are now living nine, and four of them are now members of this association, Jas. McManus, D.D.S., Hartford; R. W. Browne, D.D.S., New London; Dr. Chas. P. Graham, Middletown, and Dr. Geo. H. Waters, Waterbury. The association to-day has one hundred and thirteen members. The writer of the Cronana letter, whoever he may be, says: "That the few older members who manage the society are jealous of the younger members." That is not true. The management of the association has always been controlled by the majority of the members in attendance, and from that number have the officers been selected.

The reception of eighty-eight (88) new members since 1889, is evidence that the few older members have not only gladly welcomed the younger element, but the history of the association tells that the offices and honors have been fairly distributed over the State. The presidents have been taken from Norwalk twice, Stamford twice, Bridgeport four times, New Haven five times, New London three, Danbury three, Meriden once, Middletown once, New Britain once, Southington once and Hartford three times. The aim of the Association, as set forth in Article 2 of the Constitution has been to cultivate the science and art of dentistry, to elevate and sustain the professional character of its members, and to promote among them social intercourse and good fellowship. In all the past years the work of the Association has been steadily along that line. I know that it has been the hope and desire of the old members to gather in every dentist in the State who would subscribe to the letter and spirit of Article 2. Year after year efforts been made so far as funds would allow to make the meetings interesting and profitable for all to attend who desired to be known as professional dentists. I know that

the Secretaries and members of the Executive and other Committees have repeatedly sent out notices and urgent letters inviting the young members to read a paper, or to give a clinic and to take an active part and interest in the work of the Association. There has been no evidence of jealousy exhibited or felt by the older members toward the young men. Mutual improvement and good fellowship was on the bond, that the old members signed when joining the Association and they have faithfully lived up to it. Only those who know, and who can recall the exclusive and secretive character of nearly all the dentists of thirty-four years ago, can realize the great changes that have been brought about by the work of the State Dental Association.

This Association has sent representatives to the American Dental Association since its organization, and it has kept in touch with the best men in the profession throughout the country. It has worked with them, aiding and sustaining as far as it was possible for them to do so, all their efforts for the professional advancement of every practicing dentist in the country. It has been fearless and outspoken in its repeated warnings to the profession and the public. It has criticised the editorial management of professed professional journals and it has protested against their publishing misleading and unsafe nostrum advertisements.

The good work and influence of this and kindred associations in the country has gained for all dentists, whether members or not, recognition as professional men. The old members can tell of the past, and it is with pleasure that they ask you to remember that up to May, 1897, there was no stain on the record of this Association, and that its history has been in all respects ethical and honorable. The present and the future is in the care and under the guidance of the young men, and we may at least hope that they will labor earnestly, intelligently and honestly to maintain what the Association has gained in the past—a professional standing.

NOTE.—The writer of the foregoing paper considered it a duty to include a careful statement of facts in connection with a most unfortunate episode in the annals of the Association. The future may call for more facts concerning the good name of the Association, in which case it will be deemed not only a duty but a pleasure to present them.

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