

# The Angle Orthodontist

*A magazine established by the co-workers  
of Edward H. Angle, in his memory. . . .*



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## The Twilight Between Fact and Fancy

THE DENTAL SCHOOL CATALOGUE is assuming poetic license with respect to the announcement of courses presented. While many, perhaps most, dental departments exercise respectable decorum and academic conservatism in the published statement of courses furnished prospective students, there is certainly a tendency to deal extravagantly with fact and loosely with the dictionary. How much of this is manslaughter and how much murder of the truth is debatable.

In a large measure the discrepancy between the course outlined and that given may be attributable to difference between ambition and attainment. Yet, it is difficult in some instances to believe that advertising has not exerted an insidious influence. The choice of words and phrasing not infrequently appears as a premeditated effort to convey an idea of facilities and course content unable to withstand the cool and searching light of impartial educational appraisalment.

More annoying than dishonest is the listing of courses for particular quarters or semesters of the school year that, for one reason or another, are not given as scheduled or are presented with alteration of the teaching personnel. There are circumstances admittedly beyond the control of the best foresight of educational institutions. Yet the long range planning of student programs in departments of a single university and between universities may be seriously affected by departmental carelessness in this respect. This is particularly pertinent in graduate study.

There can be less sympathy with the practice of listing individual

courses or programs of study year after year that are not available to the student. Organized instruction in graduate orthodontics is not beyond pale of this criticism. The reader of the bulletins wherein these misrepresentations appear can scarcely be expected to interpret them in the light of local institutional facilities, conditions, or aspirations.

Nationwide the presentation of dental school courses has come to such a pass that educators have abandoned any thought of forming an accurate idea of their nature from the catalogues of the institutions which offer them. If the carelessness of these statements has been designed to confuse those who seek to evaluate the calibre of instruction, their objectives have been accomplished and the attainment has brought discredit as well upon the institutions which still adhere to a strict interpretation of the truth. Unless the situation receives attention, the credulity of prospective students, already wavering, will be shattered.

Some changes are demanded in the best interests of professional education and the basic foundation upon which rests all science, the search of truth and the unbiased presentation of fact.

H. J. N.