

## Editorial Department

It seems very fitting that the Editorial Department of the Angle Orthodontist reserve space in this issue for a discussion of that portion of the combined meetings of the Chicago Dental Society and American Dental Association that was devoted to our special field.

Considerable praise is due the Committee in charge for the calibre and dignity of the program of the Orthodontia Section. In harmony with the occasion, a majority of the essays were devoted to a review of a Century of Progress in Orthodontia and its correlated sciences. These papers, though primarily historical, necessarily carried messages of education and practical stimulation and the latter were perhaps supereffective because they were so sharply contrasted with their literary surroundings as to make them outstanding and hence more impressive.

The attendance in this section was uniformly up to room capacity showing an interest that was encouraging because the program did not cater to the superficial or lackadaisical element.

There were exhibits of a historical and educational nature that were unique in orthodontia meetings. These had been prepared with the greatest of care and effort. The time expended by those in charge of such preparations must have been of many hours duration and one can hardly estimate the sacrifices that necessarily accompanied such tasks. Those who simply come to meetings for the purpose of seeing and hearing, who never take active part in any sessions, who fail to contribute of their time, knowledge and skill that their fellow practitioners may be helped and their pathway made a little easier, should at least, pause and contemplate over the devotion to orthodontia that made possible such exhibits and produced such a splendid program.

A feature worth commenting upon was the elimination of all discussions of essays. The majority of discussions bring forth little of constructive or clarifying nature and hence are but a waste of precious time,—time that could far better be used in the reading of a carefully prepared essay or the conducting of a thoughtfully evolved clinic. Had this plan of discussion elimination not been followed, it would have been impossible to find place on the program for several valuable papers.

It would seem from the calibre of this sectional meeting that Orthodontia can be proud of the progress that she has made. It has not been a "Century

of Progress," for orthodontia was not born until specialization occurred and a scientific foundation, based upon the law of normal occlusion of the teeth, had been evolved. Since that time her advancement has been prodigious. But at no period in her history has there been so many individuals earnestly at work gathering statistical knowledge, delving into various fields of research and carefully studying the mechanical problems, as at the present moment, all of which must eventually lead to the clarification of many of our unsolved questions. There is every reason to expect that the advancement of our specialty will be rapid and steady during the next quarter of a century just as it has been during the past. This will be assured provided each individual aims to make his contribution along constructive lines and avoids offering that which is destructive, for the latter only clutters up the roadway and so impedes, temporarily, the march of progress.

For the safety of the specialty, there are two great outstanding needs that must be met in the near future if we are to maintain and raise the standard of individuals practicing orthodontia and thus assure steady progress in the science. We must have *better* educational facilities for the training of prospective orthodontists and we must have legislation for the control of the practice of orthodontia. May the day come soon when these safeguards are thrown around our special field, just as they have been done in years past in the allied fields of medicine and dentistry. To gain this objective is a task which should stimulate the most zealous activity and consecrated support of every orthodontist throughout the country.