

## Editorial Department

### Orthodontia of the Future, Shall it be a Profession or a Racket?

With concrete examples constantly appearing before our eyes, demonstrating so clearly the downward trend of professional ideals, aims and ethics, notably to be taken from the allied field of law, is it not time that all orthodontists who hold within their hearts some feeling of concern for the welfare of the profession that they practice, take stock, unite and immediately set in activity ways and means whereby the future may be made safe for children who need our special services and our field guarded from the inroads of the financial propagandist and the ethical pirate? Has the time not come when such a plea will no longer be considered as the sentiments of a fanatic or an alarmist?

There is an encouraging and promising sign on our horizon in the unquestionable appearance in these latter months of such an awakening in orthodontia. This may be quite as significant and perhaps bodes more far-reaching and permanent good for the profession than any scientific discovery or new and practical invention could do at this time.

During prosperous years when there was practice enough and to spare for all, reputable and otherwise, the few earnest attempts that were made to interest orthodontists in the legal and ethical protection of their profession not only fell on deaf ears and uninterested minds, but were openly scoffed at, ridiculed, and even defied. And the charlatans went on their merry way!

Today, faced with economic conditions radically changed and with the permanence of scientific orthodontia actually threatened, it is a hopeful fact that there are quite a number of orthodontists who are beginning to "view with alarm" a condition the gravity of which requires immediate action.

This reaction comes late and it is yet only beginning, but, if the beneficences of orthodontia are to be saved to the children of the earth, it had to come. And it seems to us that transcending everything else in helpfulness and practicality to the profession in general would be plans to effect, with some degree of promptitude, certain essential reforms in the profession of orthodontia which we all know to be imperative. In such plans all ethical members of the profession should take active part and the matter is now so urgent that it seems certain that all such individuals can be counted upon for immediate and sympathetic cooperation with each other.

We hold no delusions as to the magnitude of the reform undertaking, but, if the time is ripe, or ripening, for it, it may be far less difficult than it now would seem to be. And we know that the longer the delay continues the more difficult the task will become. Also, we request the thoughtful consideration of these two facts: First, that this is the orthodontist's job: no one else is going to do it for him. And second, that if the orthodontist does not do it soon, he may as well "fold up his tent and silently steal away," for the "handwriting" (of those who are not awakening) is certainly already "on the wall." Orthodontists must save themselves from the dire results that lack of foresight in sidestepping legal protection is fast leading them into or accept the inevitable domination of the charlatan and unethical majority who are building up a group that is fast gaining dominance. We urge thoughtful consideration of these pertinent facts.

A.H.A.

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