

**OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE
TRANSACTIONS OF THE SOUTHERN
DENTAL ASSOCIATION. TWENTY-SIXTH
ANNUAL MEETING, HELD IN ATLANTA,
GEORGIA, NOVEMBER 5, 6, 7, 8, 1895**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649511983

Official Report of the Transactions of the Southern Dental Association. Twenty-Sixth Annual Meeting, Held in Atlanta, Georgia, November 5, 6, 7, 8, 1895 by Mrs. J. M. Walker

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Cover @ 2017

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MRS. J. M. WALKER

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LIBRARY
Harvard University
NOVEMBER 8, 1896
DENTAL SCHOOL

MRS. J. M. WALKER, REPORTER.

PHILADELPHIA:
THE S. S. WHITE DENTAL MANUFACTURING CO.
1896.

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DENTAL SCHOOL
TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

Southern Dental Association.

SESSION OF 1895.

THE Southern Dental Association convened in twenty-sixth annual session in Atlanta, Ga., November 5, 1895.

Officers of the Association.—H. E. Beach, Clarksville, Tenn., President; J. S. Thompson, Atlanta, Ga., First Vice-President; L. P. Dotterer, Charleston, S. C., Second Vice-President; R. D. Seals, Fort Smith, Ark., Third Vice-President; H. A. Lowrance, Athens, Ga., Treasurer; E. P. Beadies, Danville, Va., Corresponding Secretary; S. W. Foster, Atlanta, Ga., Recording Secretary.

Committee on Arrangements.—Frank Holland, Atlanta, Ga., Chairman; C. T. Brockett, Atlanta, Ga.; J. A. Thornton, Atlanta, Ga.

The meetings were held in the chapel of the Young Men's Christian Association Building, a large, well-ventilated, well-lighted, and in every way admirably arranged apartment for the purpose.

The meeting was called to order at 11 A. M., Tuesday, November 5; the President, Dr. H. E. Beach, Clarksville, Tenn., in the chair.

After a prayer, offered by the Rev. J. B. Robbins, of Atlanta, Dr. Frank Holland, Atlanta, Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, read the following address of welcome:

MR. PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, MEMBERS OF THE
SOUTHERN DENTAL ASSOCIATION:

Since it is incumbent upon me to deliver the address of welcome, I am pleased to assure you that it is with no ordinary degree of pleasure that I assume this duty,—a duty not only for the form and ceremony usual upon such occasions, but that heart-felt duty of

pleasure that prompts one brother to welcome another across the threshold of his own home, and there to enjoy the hospitality that comes from a true heart and bountiful hand. And I but voice the sentiment of every member of our State and City Societies when I say we not only welcome you gentlemen, but would lavish upon you, individually and collectively, a welcome with all the fervency of a brotherly affection, and this feeling we would extend to members from all parts of the compass and the world over, to every tongue and every nationality. Welcome, gentlemen, to the Empire State of Georgia, renowned for her various agricultural products, her commerce, her manufacturing; great in mineral resources and great in diversity of climate; and while Georgia is our old mother (as General Toombs has put it), and Atlanta her capital home, let me welcome you to the old mother's home. A city, gentlemen, the birthplace of more organizations than any city of its size and age in the country—the birthplace of our beloved Society. Twenty-six years ago did we behold the first dawn of the *Southern Dental Association*, and from the date of her birth this Association (as if catching the inspiration of her old mother) has grown in numbers and research far beyond any reasonable consideration. Then do I welcome this Association to her native city; a city—as I see her a few years ago—but a handful of people, emerging from the ruins of our late unpleasantness with all abandoned, and but little hope for the future, rising to buckle on the armor of progress that knows no law but that of ultimate success; and to-day I can point you out a city with 110,000 people, full of vim and energy, and with a determination to a healthy growth. A city renowned for its progress in every direction, both in number of inhabitants and variety of business industry; and last, but not least, a moral city, and one worshipping in more churches than any city of its size in the country.

A city, gentlemen, your Association may ever be proud of and revere as the mother city. And in turn the mother may be proud of her offspring. Your Association has not only increased in numbers, but has laid the foundation for a professional association equal to any like association in the world. Then how proud are we to welcome you since you come not only increased in numbers, but in the hidden mysteries of scientific attainment, both in appliances to facilitate manipulation as well as the relief of unfortunate humanity.

At every convention you leave the evidence of ability to attain the highest possible degree of perfection in every department, and the accomplishment of the best results.

In conclusion, let me point you to the Cotton States and International Exposition, the grandest exposition the South has ever held. And after having obtained all from the labors of this conven-

tion of professionals, the "Midway" itself will amply repay you for the trip. Then welcome, thrice welcome, gentlemen, is reverberated from every housetop in the land, and let the Old Mother furnish her offspring with every variety of nourishment.

It had been expected that the mayor of the city would address the Association, tendering a welcome on behalf of the citizens of Atlanta; but being unavoidably detained a brief, but cordial, verbal message was received tendering the freedom of the city.

The President then read his annual address, as follows:

ANNUAL ADDRESS.

By H. E. BEACH, D.D.S., PRESIDENT.

As the birds of passage at stated intervals return to the place where they first learned to plume their wings, and from whence they sailed out on their own responsibility in quest of food and pleasure, so we return often to our birthplace to renew our consecration to the vows here made.

Twenty-six years ago our Southern Dental Association was organized in Atlanta, and for the fourth time we come to gain hope and inspiration from her wonderful advancement. We feel that we have accomplished much since that day, more than a quarter of a century past; but the rapid strides in progress of the home of our nativity, and her wonderful advancement along all lines of prosperity, culture, and power as a city and a factor in the commerce and greatness in our South-land, should teach us a lesson never to be forgotten, and awaken in our minds aspirations to scale heights of knowledge and usefulness of which we have not dreamed. When we met here for the first time we found a city just beginning to recover from the effects of the dark cloud of war which had hovered around her for four years, and at last it burst in fire and flame over her devoted head; to-day we are welcomed by the metropolis of the South, who opens her arms to receive the people of the world, and as a pedagogue to instruct all by a vision of what is possible for the South.

The most marvelous example of national heroism in history is to be found in the record of the South during the last thirty years, and Atlanta is the very embodiment of that example.

We are astonished as we contemplate your growth and development since first we met here. We are proud of the beautiful homes, commodious business houses, colleges, and other institutions which adorn your city, and we congratulate you upon the facilities which make it the trade center of the South; but more than all, we envy you the qualities of manhood and womanhood which have made the history of this place such a glorious heritage.

Thrice during the history of this Association you have entertained us as your guests, and now once again we have listened to your warm words of greeting.

What men say of themselves cannot *always* be taken as a true index to their real purpose or thought. Cæsar came as a patriot, but only that a crown might adorn his brow; Napoleon posed as a deliverer while he riveted the bonds of his people yet more firmly; but you not only *offer* us a welcome, but *give* us a genuine Southern article, than which the world knows no better.

More than thirty years ago you promised a warm reception to a large delegation of visitors and sight-seers, and many are left to bear witness to the fact that the promise was well kept.

To-day the hearty hand-clasp of brotherly love is given alike to North and South, to East and West. It is with unfeigned pleasure that we return this warm pressure, and trust that this meeting may be one of such mutual pleasure and profit as that both host and guest may always hold its memory dear.

When at Old Point Comfort, in the grand old State of Virginia,—the State in which I first saw the light of day, where I was reared and educated, the State I honor and love so well,—you called me to the honorable and responsible position of President of this grand organization, I determined then and there that, God being my helper, I would so far as I was able discharge the duty imposed on me in the best manner I possibly could, and to-day I can say to you that it has been a labor of love.

The hearty co-operation of many of you has cheered my heart, and lightened the burden of responsibility in a manner that has been very grateful to me, I can assure you.

To say that I am flattered by the distinguished honor conferred on me in selecting me to preside over the deliberations of so learned and progressive a body as the Southern Dental Association would but feebly express my feelings in this, the proudest moment of my professional career,—the more proud because of the fact that it is an honor conferred without notice or solicitation on my part.

I undisguisedly accept the honor with honest pride, but while extending to you my most profound thanks and gratitude, I nevertheless acknowledge that I assume the responsibility with considerable trepidation, though not that I mistrust my professional brethren or fear that, in your most earnest search for truth in the discussions that may arise, there will be anything that will in any way mar the harmony of the occasion, or any feelings other than of the most fraternal nature.

Remembering that as the "hart panteth after the waterbrook," so panteth every real dentist after the most valuable truths of his

profession, we may expect every one of you to earnestly, and it may be with considerable fervor contend for what he believes is right and scientifically true, but that no harsh word or unkind sentiment may be indulged in I feel assured.

Your presence here to-day is proof positive that you are all in sympathy for the work that is before you, and let me express the desire that we enter into it with full accord and a heartiness unprecedented in our history.

In presenting to you some thoughts that to me seem worthy of your consideration, I do it in no spirit of dictation; but with a degree of confidence in your learning and ability that is the outgrowth of a long and intimately fraternal association of the most pleasant and profitable kind. Trusting to your wisdom and experience to extract the kernel and cast the hull to the waste, I submit these thoughts and invoke your most careful consideration.

The many thousands of earnest dentists all over this broad country of ours, as well as in every civilized country on earth, are looking to us for something more than a discussion of the commonplace questions that pertain to our daily work. After a full and free discussion on all the subjects that may come before us, conclusions *should* be reached that *could* and *would* go out as authority.

The people for whom we study and labor, whose interest is ours, and whose comfort is our comfort, are better educated in regard to dentistry than ever before, and therefore they not unfrequently demand a reason for what we do. While every one may give his own reason, it would be far better if they could refer to the conclusion that had been here arrived at after a full and free discussion.

It would be an authority that would be not only of the highest order, but in cases where legal questions are to be settled, it would be of paramount importance to individual dentists, to be able to refer to the action of this Association as such authority.

I therefore recommend that we so shape our labors as to be able as far as is practical to agree upon some plan, in whatever way your combined wisdom may suggest, by which the conclusions arrived at as touching any question that may come before you may be formulated and recorded in a manner easy of reference whenever occasion may make it necessary. I consider this especially true in regard to demonstrations that are made in our clinics.

If a committee should be appointed of three or more members present at any meeting, and it be made their duty to supervise all clinics and report on each one separately at such time as may be determined, and a discussion for a fixed length of time be allowed on each report, the Association could then by vote or otherwise indorse or reject the demonstration as in its discretion might seem advisable.

If for unprofessional purposes any one should seek by a clinical demonstration to advertise himself, and thereby deceive others by claiming or pretending to claim superiority or leadership among his profession, this Association could then be in a position to put the seal of disapprobation thereon, and so render harmless that which might otherwise be of much discredit if not really hurtful to the profession.

When anything should seem too new or of too much importance to be passed upon at once, it might be referred to an appropriate committee for investigation, to be reported at some subsequent meeting, when intelligent action could be had.

It seems apparent to others, as it does to me, that there should be some radical changes made in the qualifications of men for the responsible position of dentist. No one, so far as I know, has ever been bold enough to make the statement that I now make, and yet the fact must be apparent to every dentist that has ever been through college.

Almost every college class seems to be afflicted with its class thief, or it may be thieves; and if a man will steal instruments, materials, money, or anything else from his classmates, what may be expected of him in his dealings with the public? If he is dishonest enough to appropriate to his own use anything that belongs to his fellow-students, you may educate him to the highest conceivable standard, and he will be dishonest still.

The dental colleges have responded readily and with hearty cooperation to every demand that has been made upon them by the profession, and if it is required that no dental student be graduated, whatever his attainments may be otherwise, who has so far forgotten the moral law as to disregard the rights of others, we would, when the present crop has died out, hear less about the violation of the code of ethics. I would not be understood to mean that the colleges knowingly and wilfully turn out graduates that are guilty of theft; but they all know that it is not safe to leave anything worth having where it can be appropriated.

In consideration of this knowledge, I suggest that it is the duty of the institutions of learning to employ, if necessary, a keen, shrewd class detective, and separate the good from the bad before they are licensed to practice their unholy desires for gain upon a trusting and innocent public. Admit none but honest men to the profession, and the nefarious schemes that are now resorted to—schemes with which most of us have to contend—would soon become a thing of the past.

We live in a time when men are struggling for the rapid accumulation of money, and many are not choice as to how they get it. This unholy desire for gain permeates all the various avocations of