The Future of the National Dental Association.

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The National Dental Association has been re-organized.

This is a minor act, correlated with a major truth.

The Dental profession of the United States has been organized.

To this end a few leaders have worked zealously for several years.

In the formation of the foundation of the new structure, there have been differences of opinion, but whatever other men may have thought, the disputants themselves knew that each was striving for the betterment of the whole.

Out of these differences has come a success greater than the anticipation of the most optimistic of the constitution builders.

This success spells opportunity. Opportunity for progress.

This progress will mean greater knowledge of causes of dental lesions, and better means of combating disease.

Consequently it will make possible, better work by dentists; and this bettered service to the people will bring its reward in a greater gratitude and a higher appreciation of dentistry and dentists.

Dentistry has lagged behind medicine in public confidence in the past because our service has been confined in the public mind to the treatment of a minute local area of the body, and because we have been remiss in giving service free to the poor.

Dentistry, with and through its re-organized national association, has stepped up beside medicine, and now must not only co-operate with, but march ahead of that great band of healers.

This, then, must be the future purpose, and will be the future achievement of the National Dental Association:

To band together in one working unit the dental army of the United States;

To drill this army in true knowledge of the relation between mouth disease and body disease;

To teach the doctrine of mouth prophylaxis, and thence the prevention of half the ills of the human race;

To investigate, test, and teach the best modes and methods of practical service, in the curative field of dentistry;

To restore to American dentistry the prestige of world precedence once enjoyed, and now disputed by other countries of the world;

To gain for dentistry, in the hearts and confidence of the public, an esteem equal to that enjoyed by medicine and the ministry.

These accomplishments are possible, nay imperative. The great American Dental Army, twelve thousand strong, is now enrolled and ready for the fray. The officers have been appointed, and are ready for their leadership. But what of the Army?

Any man who shirks and drops out of the ranks is a deserter. Those that stand aside hoping to share in the spoils, without enlisting for the battle, are cowards.

Every man in dentistry must do his duty. Every ethical dentist must enlist, and then at the cry of our commanders let us "March on, to conquest and to professional glory."