OUR PROFESSION'S PATRIOTISM.

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W E MISSOURIANS love our fair state but our Missouri senators have caused us to blush with shame and hang our heads with humiliation at their unpatriotic stand in the United States Senate and their incoordination with the wishes of the President of the United States and the majority of Missouri people.

I refer to our misrepresentatives in the United States Senate, "Gum Shoe Bill" Stone, and "Jim" Reed who, excepting LaFollette, are the two most unpatriotic Americans I know of at this date.

The question has been asked, "What and why is the Preparedness League of American Dentists?"

Briefly, it is an organization of 7,000 dentists of the United States working under the auspices of the National Dental Association who for patriotic and humanitarian reasons by gratuitous service have made dentally fit and eligible 50,000 applicants for enlistment in the United States army and navy, by restoring and making whole and sanitary the wrecked dental apparatus of our soldiers and sailors.

Approximately there is 46,000 dentists in the United States, 7,000 of whom are now members of the League, and every member of the National Dental Association should be. They have made possible this great work undertaken by the League, in proving to the United

States government the dental profession were prepared and patriotic, also that the conservation of the teeth of our fighting men is a most valuable adjunct to their health and efficiency. Napoleon said, "An army travels on its stomach" for about three-fourths of a soldier's efficiency depends on his stomach, and a man's stomach cannot perform its functions with an impaired dental equipment.

The League is efficiently officered by Dr. J. Wright Beach, President, who conceived the original idea of it, Dr. H. A. Pullen, Vice-President, who suggested the study course, and Dr. M. B. Eshleman, Secretary-Treasurer, while the whole work of the League is under the supervision of that capable and efficient man, Major Wm. H. G. Logan, president of the National Dental Association, and Chairman of the Committee on Dentistry, General Medical Board, Council of National Defense.

The study course of the League, consisting of 125 units, has opened a much neglected field and has caused many to familiarize themselves anew with anatomy, pathology, anesthesia, radiology, prosthesis, oral and dental war surgery, bone and skin grafting, etc.

Another thing in which the League has accomplished wonders is its work in furnishing ambulances thru various units, dental schools, and dental organizations. All members of the California

State Dental Society are being assessed \$5.00 each for this purpose. The Western Dental College of Kansas City, thru the tireless and patriotic work of its Dean, Dr. R. J. Rinehart, is the first dental school to organize a dental motor ambulance unit.

The dental operator, coming in close contact as he does with his patient, has a fine opportunity to explain to his wealthy and patriotic patients the need of ambulances and the work the League is doing, especially calling their attention to the munificence of a patient of Dr. Charles F. Ash, of New York City, who recently gave him \$10,000 for motor dental ambulances for the League.

These men working under the League's supervision have proven they are the harbingers of mercy and patriotism willing to make any sacrifice, i. e., the breaking of home ties, many giving up a lucrative practice, accepting an inferior rank, enduring hardships, even the loss of life or limb, if necessary, to follow that glorious emblem, our country's flag, that stands for American ideals, traditions and the institutions of eternal justice and freedom.

The dentists in service in the army or navy did not wait to be drafted but responded with alacrity to their country's call.

Last week in conversation with a member of the President's cabinet in Washington, he said, "The members of the dental corps are doing a great service but if needed they will fight to the death for their country."

Americans have pledged themselves that the Hun with his brutalities and atrocities and the Kaiser with his damned U-boat war, his autocracy and "Kulture," must be wiped out and the democracy of equality and justice the immortal Lincoln predicted that the "government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth," but reign paramount and supreme.

For Americans recognize neither autocracy, imperialism, nor aristocracy, except the aristocracy of brains.

Neither do they bow to Emperor, Kaiser, or King, except the Lord God, the King of heaven. (Applause.)

If you have not read the cleverest story the European War has brought forth entitled "*The Three Things*," by Mary Stillman Andrews, you should. It is a story of a wealthy American lad with snobbish ideas as to caste, religion and race prejudice.

He goes to fight for the Allies and lies wounded among the others on a battlefield in France, deaf from the shriek of shells and boom of artillery, he sees coming out of a cloud of smoke and dust a sad-eyed, hook-nosed figure, dressed in a long black cassock, with a black skull cap on his long white hair.

The old Rabbi works his way among the fallen, peering into faces looking for men of his own race to help.

"Water!" gasped a wounded Irishman and the Rabbi lifted his head and pressed a flask to his lips.

The wounded man saw the black robe and thought the wearer was a priest of his holy faith. His fast dimming eyes made no finer distinctions. "Crucifix," Father, he whispered, "crucifix." The Rabbi started, but from somewhere, somehow a hand held something to the lips of the dying man, whose long fingers caught it, and with the Irishman's heavy head against his breast the Rabbi held high the sign of a faith not his own, before dying eyes, and as he held it another shell burst and the Rabbi lay dead, the dead Irishman in his arms, the cross of Christ gripped in his hand. Illustrating that all faiths are the same in death, and the greatest one of them all is—love.

And that is just what this terrible war has done. It has softened and mellowed humanity, especially the haughty, the vain, the proud, and the wealthy.

It has broken down the barriers of caste, eliminated the snob and has made of mankind, as Kipling says, "little brothers and little sisters under the skin."

There are no class of men engaged in this great war, in whom flows the rich red blood of patriotism, who are doing more to impress and emphasize to our allies the sincere love we have for our country's flag, the sight of which causes a gripping at our heart strings and a

flush of pride, than have our dental corps boys in blue and khaki.

So let's "do our bit" every man of us by supporting the League in this fine work. My only criticism of the League is that the membership fee is not ten, instead of one, dollar.

Formerly one seriously asked himself, "Am I my brother's keeper?" but this war has made the world realize that better than being your brother's keeper is that *I am my brother's brother.*