

THE
DENTIST'S OWN BOOK

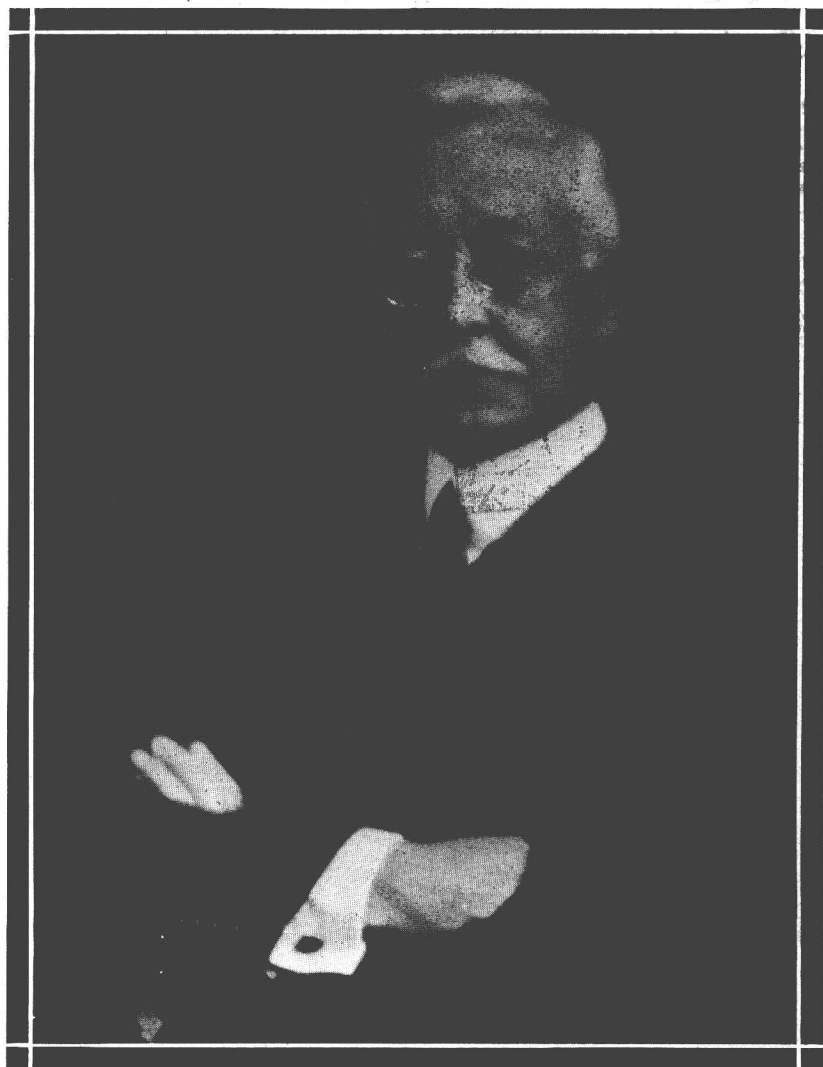
C. EDMUND KELLS, D.D.S.



THE DENTIST'S OWN BOOK

"I saw a weaver seated at his loom,
And as he worked, the weaver crooned a tune,
Hard by the loom some threads discarded lay,
They were the snarls — mistakes of yesterday.
And there were threads by far a brighter hue,
They were of hope—the threads of prospects new.
I saw the weaver choose the threads with care,
Slowly he wove them in a pattern rare;
Some threads appeared in bold relief and free—
High lights were they in Life's bright tapestry.
You are the weaver of your future days,
Sing as you weave—success will reign always."

—*Author Unknown.*



C. Edmund Kelly

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THE DENTIST'S OWN BOOK

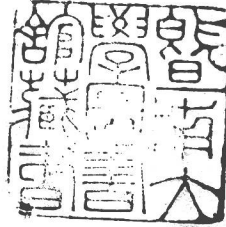
A FAITHFUL ACCOUNT OF THE EXPERIENCES GAINED DURING
FORTY-SIX YEARS OF DENTAL PRACTICE

INCLUDING

A COMPLETE BOOKKEEPING AND RECORDING SYSTEM
AND A DESCRIPTION OF THE MANAGEMENT
OF A DENTAL PRACTICE

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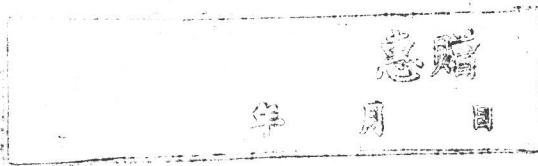
BY



C. EDMUND K~~ELLS~~, D.D.S.

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

WITH 116 ILLUSTRATIONS



ST. LOUIS
THE C. V. MOSBY COMPANY

1925

"TO THE MAKING OF BOOKS THERE IS NO END"

I WOULD PARAPHRASE THIS WELL-KNOWN
QUOTATION TO READ:

"TO THE MAKING OF THIS BOOK THERE IS APPARENTLY NO END"

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TO
MY WIFE

WHO FOR FORTY YEARS HAS CON-
SISTENTLY ENDEAVORED TO BE A
BALANCE WHEEL TO A SORT OF
ERRATIC SET OF WORKS, IS THIS
BOOK AFFECTIONATELY INSCRIBED

PREFACE

When I was a boy—goodness me, what a long time ago that was!—a boy's tastes were simple, and his opportunities were indeed limited, and so, if he were not the happy possessor of a copy of the "Boy's Own Book," he deserved the pity of his friends—indeed he did.

My own "Boy's Own Book"! How well do I remember what an inexhaustible storehouse of interest and amusement it was! On rainy days and in times of stress to it one naturally turned for solace and companionship; and it never failed.

The "Boy's Own Book." "Printed in 1855" is on the copy before me at the moment. The wonder of it! And still more wonderful it is that the thousand and one simple little amusements (?) and games described in its seven hundred and odd pages could have given the *real pleasure* that they did.

Those certainly were the "good old days" when a parlor stereoscope and a kaleidoscope were the chief attractions and afforded ample excitement for an evening's entertainment. Should grand-dad bring out such things to amuse and entertain the kids today, believe me, they would have a commission of alienists sitting upon him in a jiffy!

What did this wonderful "Boy's Own Book" contain? Well, listen:

"Games with Balls" (but no baseball, football, or tennis in 1855):

"Archery and Gymnastics."

"Optical Amusements and Chemical Amusements."

"Legerdemain, Paradoxes and Puzzles."

"Conundrums, Enigmas and Rebuses."

"Guinea Pigs and Pigeons." (Can you beat that? Question is mine.)

"Sight and Sound, Light and Heat and Fire and Water and Air."

"Electricity."

And more than seven hundred pages of this! Could any boy have wished for more? Just "listen in" on this for a thrilling experiment with electricity.

"*Electricity of the Cat.*—Place your left hand upon the throat of the cat, and with the middle finger and the thumb, press slightly the bones of the animal's shoulders; then if the right hand be gently passed along the back, perceptible shocks of electricity will be felt in the left hand. *The experimenter must naturally be on good terms with the cat.*" (Italics mine.)

Just a plain, good-natured cat in those days. Today it is a radio set. Some change!

Under *Legerdemain* is found "*The Traveling Egg.*"

"Take a goose egg. Open and cleanse, and then put a bat in the shell and glue it fast on the top, and the bat will cause the egg to move about in a manner that will excite much astonishment." (I do not recall ever having excited the astonishment of my friends by this trick.)

Under the chapter "*Sports of Agility and Speed*" comes "Leap Frog." Ye gods! Leap frog for speed and agility! Can you imagine it? Speed and agility are merely relative terms after all, and evidently they have undergone some change since 1855.

The writer of the "Boy's Own Book" said, "We heartily trust that our young readers will commence the perusal of our pages with pleasure equal to that which we feel in sitting down to write them and that we shall go pleasantly together through our work." I can truthfully say that these are my sentiments regarding the Dentist's Own Book.

Often, as I was at my desk by the window, with the morning sun just peeping through the trees and a saucy little mocking bird swinging on a near-by branch, sending forth his joyous melody, would my mind wander for a moment from my task, and I would wonder if this book really would be a "comfort and a solace," as well as a welcome messenger bringing new and useful ideas to the earnest student striving to forge ahead in his chosen profession.

In all hopefulness, therefore, it is written. To repeat the words of the author of 1855, already quoted, I can say from the bottom of my heart, "I heartily trust that my readers, both young and old [for I hope for both] will peruse these pages with pleasure equal to that which I feel in sitting down to write them, and that we shall go pleasantly together through our work."

"Men are but boys grown tall,"—trite and true the saying. Why, then, could not a "Dentist's Own Book" be to the dentist of today what the "Boy's Own Book" was to the boys of the days long ago, a book to which he can turn and find encouragement upon troublous days?

And not the dentist alone is this intended to interest. Why should it not interest his lady assistant, his secretary and his wife as well, and all to a great extent? It is written with that hope.

Textbooks, as they are written, usually are records of *successes* only. If there is any book recording the failures of its writer, it has failed to reach me.

So, let it be. Here will be recorded some of the methods by means of which one earnest worker, at least, has reached (I hope) a certain amount of success, and also a few of the many failures met with, and against which others should be guarded. Would it not be great if, in truth, such a book is needed and will prove a help to those in need? That is the hope.

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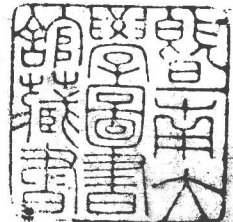
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