Amos Dixon

9.1.16

Job Shadow

Dr. Buettner

For my job shadow I chose Dr. Fred H Buettner, one of the dentists in Lindsay. I know I want to go into an occupation in the medical field but I’m not sure what specifically. Because of this I wanted to job shadow someone who worked in the medical field and whose job isn’t as transparent as a general practitioner. I set up my job shadow with Dr. Buettner on August 31, 2016.

When I arrived I had a chance to talk with the doctor before his first patient arrived. He and his whole staff were very friendly, and he answered some of my initial questions before going over the schedule for the day. It was a fairly typical day, with a couple crownings and one major surgery. I followed the doctor throughout the day and watched him as he dealt with patients. One thing I realized right away is how much conversing goes on in dentistry. “Fifty percent of dentistry is psychology”, Dr. Buettner told me, “you have to make sure the patient feels comfortable. While the doctor didn’t do any of the regular teeth cleanings, he did have to go help calm down a young kid once. A lot of the job is repetition, especially the crownings, but the surgery was interesting. The man he was performing the surgery on had a root that was growing incorrectly, so the doctor had to remove it. He first cut out the area around the tooth, then splintered the tooth in order to remove it without damaging the teeth surrounding it.

One of the most interesting things I noted about this job was the flexible work hours. Dr. Buettner only works three and a half days a week, and is able to take vacations pretty much whenever he feels like it. It was obvious that money was not an issue. These are the perks of having a private practice. One thing I didn’t think about, however, was all the business that is involved in a private practice: the paychecks, taxes, and insurance info, among other things. In Dr. Buettner’s case, his wife handles the business aspect of the practice.

I can definitely picture myself doing this job in the future. Although I’m not completely sure, the flexible hours, good pay, and low stress make it seem like a great option.