

the methods and practices of dental schools, is that most of them do not demand, as a qualification for admission, any preliminary education whatever. No matter how ignorant and untrained a man may be, most dental schools are open to him. Until very recently all the medical and law schools in the United States were in the same ignominious condition. Among American professional schools, the theological schools alone, and not all of them, have escaped this degradation. It would be difficult to exaggerate the effect upon the estimation in which the profession of medicine and dentistry are held, of the fact that, until within two years, these professions have been accessible to men who could barely read and write, and have actually been entered by thousands of persons who never received, at school or college, the early training which, in the great majority of cases, is an essential preliminary to a life of refinement and cultivation."

It may not conduce to the numerical strength of college attendance that such advancement should be made, but there are not only far too many dental colleges, and too many students in most of them, but the educational standard of the large majority is not what it should be. It is very exceptional to find a student who has graduated in Arts disgracing dentistry by quack methods of advertising. It is very common to find a large proportion of the illiterate "Doctors of Dental Surgery" at the head of every unprofessional dodge, as they are, as a rule, at the tail-end of any ethical or progressive reform. A high standard of matriculation would be the surest, even if it would be a slow antidote. The facilities for higher education in the United States are more democratic than in England.

Speaking of the preliminary examination in Arts required of all candidates for registration in England, Prof. Elliott adds: "There is no need of argument to prove that such conditions of entrance as these will, in the course of twenty years, greatly improve the quality of the mass of the profession in England, and it is the mass, and not the few persons of exceptional gifts, that educational regulations are always intended to affect. If American dentistry, as a profession, is to maintain its rank in the world, it must be defended by similar requisitions against the incursion of inadequate men."

Prof. Elliott Again.

Our friend, the editor of the *Independent Practitioner and Advertiser*, thought we were rather hard on "American Dentistry," in our criticism of the colleges in their past career. The remarks above by Prof. Elliott are very *apropos* to the position we took, especially with reference to the lack of proper matriculation. Speaking of the schools of the period, Prof. Elliott denounced the