

compulsory action through the different state legislatures, as a primary measure, must inevitably result, as it has already done, in a yet greater diversity of laws, and more intense antagonism of professional feeling between different sections. It cannot but end in dividing the profession into two adverse and discordant parties, and the perpetuation of the fraudulent colleges, which it will be impossible to suppress except by unanimity of action. The violent and arbitrary laws already enacted, which encourage and foster bitter animosities, tend to defeat that harmony which alone can bring satisfactory results. If a part of our colleges, existing in the more recently settled and less educationally advanced portions of our common country, are refused recognition and fraternization because they are unable, from lack of time in which to adapt themselves to the changed requirements, to comply with those of a greatly advanced standard, they will thereby be forced into an unprofessional attitude, and will thus perpetuate the existence of irregular American dental schools, to the continued reproach and disgrace of our professional name. We believe it to be far better to advance gradually, but as fast as existing conditions will permit. Hence we deprecate drastic measures, or arbitrary and despotic action. No man or set of men can, by independent movements, dominate a profession of the dimensions to which dentistry has grown. A proper professional feeling must be a thing for time to bring about. Confidence is said to be a plant of slow growth, and this is eminently true in professional matters.

The wonderful progress made within a few years, under the administration of the National Association of Dental Faculties, leads us to hope that if it is permitted to pursue its own course it will, in a comparatively short time, bring all our colleges up to a point of perfection unattainable by any other means than this mutual agreement and harmony of action. The past is a guarantee for the future, and so long as such rapid progress is being made, it is worse than folly to attempt any violent measures that can be only problematical in their results.

There will be a series of meetings held at Niagara this summer that can but exercise an overwhelming influence for good or evil on our whole professional future. It is earnestly desired that all who take any interest in our educational affairs will be present at one or more of these meetings. Especially is it important that there be a full consultation between representatives of the colleges and their representative graduates resident in Europe. It is hoped that as many of them as possible will be in attendance, and that so far as is practicable every member of the European Advisory Board will make the pilgrimage to Niagara in July. Nor need the attendance of dentists from abroad be restricted to those thus appointed. The members of the association will gladly welcome