

Men whose good fortune it has been to take a course or courses in post-graduate work are loud in its praises. It is well to read in the journals descriptions of practical methods of procedure; well to hear them discussed in society meetings. It gives one food for thought, broadens the mind, perhaps suggests new ideas. But the moral effect is as nothing compared with seeing every step of the operation, and then under the eye of the instructor doing it one's self. It gives one confidence in himself, a state which always inspires the confidence of his patients.

In these days, for instance, no dentist can be accounted an all-round, finished workman who does not possess a thorough knowledge of crown and bridge-work. Yet it is safe to say not four per cent. of practitioners have this knowledge. Many more think they have it; but they judge from a biased stand-point,—their own work, not that of experts. To acquire this knowledge requires special training, without which the proper practice of this important branch of our work is impossible to the great mass of dentists. Its importance will be the better recognized when we reflect that it is the agency which is rescuing prosthetic dentistry from the low estate into which the introduction of vulcanite plunged it. Were it for no other reason than to assist in this rehabilitation in the esteem of all men of a once-honored department of dental practice, the knowledge of the principles and procedure of crown and bridge work should be universal. Since the introduction of this beautiful work we hear less and less of the one-time Shibboleth, "I do no mechanical work," by which the sheep of the profession sought to distinguish themselves from its goats.

Few men fresh from college are able to construct a bridge properly; fewer still—and this applies also to the mass of practitioners—can do any real surgery in the mouth. The reason why is suggested by Dr. Palmer's remark before quoted. Most of the difficult work, such as surgery, bridge and continuous gum, in the colleges is done by the professors or the demonstrators; so that a practical knowledge of more than the simplest operations is too seldom obtained. In a properly conducted post-graduate school a vastly different rule prevails. It should be manned by competent instructors, experts in each branch such as I have previously described, who would be there to teach, not to practise, to show those sitting under him how to do and then supervise their efforts to do. That is the kind of instruction which is now mostly required to elevate the standard of dentistry. Rightly carried out it will place the schools upon the highest level which can be demanded of them.

To sum up its advantages, the post-graduate school brings the man who seeks it for instruction into close contact with greater men, suppresses his egotism, broadens his intellect, draws forth his