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The Bearings of Bacteriology upon Dentistry.*

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It is a truth of wide-spread significance, yet one which we do not fully appreciate, that all branches of knowledge are so closely connected that no one of them may be studied apart from the others. This fact, which is true of all, may be considered particularly true of bacteriology. Born into the world at a comparatively late era in the development of human knowledge, it has had to hew out for itself, as it were, a place among the sciences, and in so doing it has not only received aid from, but has cast light upon its surroundings. It is only necessary to mention the leaders of bacteriology at the present day to realize the many-sided character of the science. Pasteur was first a chemist; Ferdinand Cohn, one of the founders of the study in Germany, was and is still a botanist, and Koch was first a practising physician. Thus it has drawn its workers from all departments, and it is natural that these workers should bring with them the bias of their early training. In so doing they have given it its varied character which alone can explain its wonderful development in the last ten years. Biology and chemistry, practical medicine and agriculture, all owe much to this growth, and it would be strange indeed if dentistry had not gained much from it also.

I have often heard it said that to be a good dentist one must have not only the training of a medical man, but also that of a mechanic and metal worker, and to be first and last and always an artist. It

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