

the meetings of the Society should be held at the time of the election of the Board; that the election of the Board should be as formerly instead of the present mode, an open general meeting by ballot. The districts could each meet and elect its representative.

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In 1860 when I commenced in my brother's office, mechanical ability was pre-eminent to success. Harris' "Principles and Practice" was my principal study. Having a limited, very common school education, I was not very familiar with chemistry, physiology, anatomy, etc. Besides being a French Canadian, I was very deficient in the English language (traces of which you will no doubt notice). But during my career I met many coming from College, and this contact gave me hope! Being a gunsmith and consequently poor, I was from necessity compelled to make most of my instruments; some of them I still use—pluggers, stump elevators, hand drills and lathes. I still use, almost daily, in preference to any I have seen, a steel finger ring with socket to facilitate rotating hand burs and drills. This I made of a piece of steel from my wife's corset and I oft repeat the same gag to my patients, that I let nothing go to waste although it had been to *waist* for some time! Some remind me, with a sigh, that I said that before! I need not give in detail the progress that has been made since 1860. The dental journals have from time to time given sketches of the manner of practice by dentists before incorporation, and, no doubt, my old friend Dr. Wood will describe to modern graduates how the old pioneers struggled for existence. Then each had some mode of manipulation different from the other. The organs of invention were exercised to discover something superior to anything his fellow-dentist possessed. When some useful discovery was made, it was often kept a secret, and used to demonstrate superiority. I recollect using for a short period a fusible metal for filling, composed of bismuth, cadmium and tin, and fusing it in the teeth; that was not a useful discovery, and was discarded. The only means for drilling and burring was by finger and thumb. The skin became hard and callous, frequently sore, and always very tiresome. My brothers and myself put our heads together in order to discover some motive power for relief and expedition. We had a number of pulleys, wheels and spindles constructed, and nearly perfected, when a Yankee comes along with a much simpler construction which we bought for sixty dollars! Then it dawned upon me that there were others from whom I could derive benefit. A more liberal feeling grew, that as I derived benefit from others, I also should contribute what knowledge I possessed for mutual benefit. The same spirit animated others, and the reputable dentists joined and became incorporated.