

them the highest social relations, there is required of us friendly, equal companionship with the world. As a profession we are endowed with knowledge and skill of inestimable value to humanity; but if we incorporate with it a degree of barbarity, we cramp its appreciation and destroy its fullest application as a boon and a benefactor to the human race. The remedy is such that it only calls from those who are guilty the practising of the common principles of humanity, and if they are incapable of such their sphere is not as exponents and practitioners of our worthy profession.

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### ECONOMY IN DENTAL PRACTICE.\*

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By R. E. SPARKS, L. D. S., Kingston, Ont.

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The great social question of the day—the question which agitates the minds of all social reformers, and stares in the face all statesmen is, how shall the masses be fed? We cannot close our eyes to the fact that this problem must soon be solved. The young men who rush into the profession thinking that, as far as they are concerned, they have solved it, will find some fine day that the question which had appeared as a molehill has become a mountain, that the question will include themselves. The rapid development which has taken place upon this continent in the last century has made a great demand for labor. That demand has made wages of all kinds high. But that development has about reached its high-water mark. Take, for instance, the tremendous amount of labor, manufacturing and business created by the building, equipping and operating of the net-work of railways and telegraph lines over the continent; to this add the thousands of villages and towns, and many of even large cities, which have sprung up during the time mentioned. To this again add the clearing up and bringing under cultivation of, and providing buildings for, the farms which provide food for the millions who have been attracted to this continent from the overflow of the old world. War with all its extravagance and devastation is, we hope, through the influence of Christian enlightenment, largely a thing of the past. All these influences tend to lower the demand for men and increase the supply. This decrease of demand and increase of supply is bound to lower the scale of wages. This lowering of wages will apply to all classes, from the navvy who digs a ditch to the judge who sits on the bench. Labor organizations may fix a schedule of wages, professional societies may attempt to regulate the fees of their

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