

cient quantity to be fatal, cause dangerous and unmanageable sores, and it would be a useful lesson to see the exceeding caution with which etchers on glass use these risky compounds. Fuming nitric acid is innocence itself compared with the fluorine acids, which will rapidly eat their way through glass, stoneware, or porcelain.

There is one point, also, in Dr. Telschow's statement which is not at all satisfactory—*i.e.*, that the new filling stands the *acids* of the mouth as well as does the living tooth substance. It will be remembered that many years ago a translucent filling was introduced which was so perfect a copy of the living tooth enamel that a filling could not be detected without the closest scrutiny and a knowledge of its position. This was similar in composition to the one now introduced, but the risky hydrofluoric acid was not used; in its place, having similar if not identical properties, a basic tin salt formed the active ingredient. This filling also stood the action of all *acids* in precisely the same manner as the living tooth enamel; but it failed in alkalis, *and it failed in the mouth*. All basic compounds of this class, including the phosphates and chlorides of zinc, offer an extraordinary resistance to the action of acids, and all fail with caustic alkalis in precisely the same way as they do in the mouth. It is therefore evident that acid tests are misleading and worse than useless; the filling of the future must resist alkalis also if they are to be permanent. The time-worn remarks about the "acids of the mouth" will not bear examination, and if the results which may be expected in practice are to be found by experiments which can only extend over a short period, the reagent to be used is a caustic alkali. The results of tests in acids, whether mineral or organic, have no resemblance whatever to the results obtained in the mouth in actual practice.—*Ash's Quarterly Circular*.

FOUR CLASSES OF DENTISTS.

By analysis it may be discovered that instead of two classes of dentists, as commonly supposed, Professional men and Quacks, there are really four, viz.: The true Professional man; the Quack Professional; the Professional Quack, and the Quack.

THE TRUE PROFESSIONAL MAN.

The true professional man, in the highest and noblest sense of the words, is a *rara avis*. He begins practice just as the true minister of the gospel takes up preaching. He is prompted by a love of his work, and a love for his fellow-man. That he earns a living by the fees which he obtains, in no sense detracts from his