

And now let me conclude this paper by stating that it has often been said that dentistry has not received that recognition from doctors that it merits. If dentists in future study and fit themselves as become their profession, making themselves thoroughly conversant with the science of dentistry in all its various branches, especially anatomy, physiology, pathology, and the laws of health, they will soon become indispensable in aiding physicians in the cure of many intricate oral diseases and operations, which are at present sadly neglected. This will compel recognition, without the asking or begging. Dentistry, it must be remembered, is very young, and although, like the medical profession, there are black sheep in our folds, we have made greater advancement in fifty years than the medical profession did during two thousand. This of itself is something for the dental profession to feel justly proud of. It has proved itself quite capable of standing alone, it has outgrown its swaddling clothes, and has no occasion to stand at the door of medicine and knock for admission. There is a work for both to do; let them work together, hand in hand, like Siamese twins, to ameliorate the martyrdom of man, and thus help to remove that ignorant and superstitious belief, that disease and suffering are all the result of Mother Eve being over-anxious to obtain a little extra knowledge by the eating of an apple. For all this there is but one remedy—wisdom, and this is, as Prof. Huxley wisely says, the only medicine for suffering, crime, and all other woes of mankind. Then let us study and think and investigate for ourselves; cultivate the brain, that wonderful organ of the mind—the crowning work of all the Creator's grandest creations.

A CONTRIBUTION TO THE AMALGAM QUESTION.*

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Were it possible to produce infallible facts, that would admit of no two opinions, as to the contraction and expansion of amalgams; if we could agree on these questions, as we are forced to agree that two and two make four, there would still remain a phase of the subject practically and morally transcending them all. Supposing we found a positively perfect amalgam, having no physical objections of color, contraction, or expansion, we would still have to face the antiquated creed, born in the dark age of American dentistry, which condemned all amalgams because of the presence of mercury. Anyone familiar with the history of the controversy of 1842, and the symposium of infinitesimal silliness which was carried on by

* Read before the Eastern Ontario Dental Association.