

are in the front of our educational interests would more likely be the first rather than the last to test it, and give it the proper place in practice. It may be that the good work the Dental College of the Province of Quebec is doing for the students will in some measure react upon the public. There is no *raison d'être* for the existence in an intelligent community of the brazen-faced quack, who knows his own ignorance so fully that he never appears in our dental societies or dare measure swords with educated confreres, but who knows, too, that the public being ignorant of what is best and most reliable in dentistry as in medical practice, is apt to believe as much in the advertising charlatan as in the most honest and skilful practitioner. I can only answer my own question, How shall we let the public know? by the statement that the public likes to be humbugged, that the public will be humbugged, that if we try very hard to expose humbug we will be put down ourselves as humbugs. I therefore propose to mind my own business and let the public take the consequences.

A WORD FROM THE PACIFIC.*

By J. P. PARKER, D.D.S., San Francisco, Cal.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,—My essay will be somewhat rambling, as I wish to tell you about the profession on the Pacific coast. To begin with, we have good, bad and indifferent dentists. The good is in the minority, but enough to hold the standard high, and it is of this class which I shall chiefly speak. Out of the one thousand dentists in California, we can find between two and three hundred that would be classed as good. You can find the "Cheap Johns" without difficulty anywhere. We have four active dental societies doing good work. The State Society is by no means as large as it ought to be, but seems to possess energy to finally conquer; with a membership of a little over one hundred, it holds a four days' session annually and binds together many good workers. There is a society in the southern part of the State, which I hear is doing good work. We have in San Francisco the Stomatological Club, which is a wonderful power in binding together some of the best workers on the coast. It meets every Tuesday afternoon and evening. The afternoon is devoted to clinics and the evening to papers and discussions. It is the best sort of post-graduate course I ever have been acquainted with, and has done wonders for its membership; also, it stands behind

* Read before Vermont State Dental Society, March 19.