

of ordinary intelligence swallow the fables and falsehoods of the professional liar with the thirst of ignorant curiosity.

One of our correspondents asks the question, "What will an honest man do in competition with one who is dishonest?" It is a question that has tried the just man ever since the world began, and will likely continue to do so until the crack of doom. It does seem as if the mimicry of honesty succeeded oftener than honesty itself; as if "fair pretence of friendly ends and well-placed words of glossy courtesy" helped hypocrites, where honesty by frankness was harmed. "What can an honest man do?" Surely, nothing dishonorable. To imitate the actions of the charlatan, or the baser knave, the hypocrite, is to pay flattery to dishonesty. The public is no true judge of professional worth. There are dentists in America, as well as in Europe, whose "reputations" are continental, yet who are known by the craft to be professional impostors. No honest man can imitate their methods and enjoy the respect of his confreres. There are some who are perfectly ethical in the matter of advertising, yet who spend their lives in systematic depreciation of worthy confreres whose success is to them a personal insult. There is little choice between the two classes. Both are dishonest, but the latter is the baser and the less manly of the two. Honesty is the best principle, as well as the best policy.

What is the Object ?

Competition may be the life of trade, but it is not so to a profession. Excessive competition may be the death of both. In our May issue we briefly referred to the overcrowding of the profession, especially in Ontario and Quebec, and we have, as a result, received a deluge of correspondence, some of which is pathetic in its details of degeneracy, and some of which is, perhaps, intolerant. For instance, two esteemed correspondents want the dental teaching bodies in Canada closed for two years, "as the supply of dentists in the provinces is 50 per cent. above the demand." Others make comparisons in Toronto, Ottawa, Hamilton, Montreal and Quebec between the cost of living, and the fees received twenty years ago and now, showing a very deplorable state of affairs so far as the practitioner is concerned. One correspondent asks: "What is the object in this wholesale manufacture of dentists? The public does not demand a dentist at every corner. The public has a great selection of good, bad and indifferent dentists already. There will soon be more licensed dentists than licensed saloons. What object have we, as dentists, in offering inducements to every Tom, Dick