

Quebec. Executive Committee—Alloway, Powlin, Fiske, Leblanc, Nichols, Venner and Matthieu.

A "discussion" then took place on "Professional fees"; but, as it was so excursive and conversational, we cannot attempt to do anything like justice to most of the speakers.

W. G. BEERS said he considered the subject of importance to the profession, with a view to obtain uniformity if possible. He considered good dentistry very badly paid in Canada; and that "cheap dentists" were overpaid, because people cannot "buy five dollars worth for one dollar" and not run the risk of being cheated. If we consider dentistry a mere trade, then let us agree to work for as little over cost as the shoemaker who makes our boots; but if a profession, let us charge for our brains, our previous and continued study, and the sacrifices of comfort and health itself we are forced to make for the convenience of our patients. He did not believe in extortion, of course, and thought that the fabulous prices obtained in some parts of the United States by some operators were out of all reason; but we are fairly entitled to better prices than we now receive. He would propose a provincial fee bill, similar to that adopted by the medical and legal professions.

C. BREWSTER held the opinion that the best class of work was the worst paid, because it is the work of skill and study, while cheap dentistry invariably is done by incompetent men. A dentist might prepare and fill the same cavity with gold in ten minutes, as some do, or in an hour and a-half as others do, and the patient, in many cases, might know no difference in the quality of the operation. He did not believe that cheap dentistry would have a much longer lease, as people are being educated up to a higher appreciation of the profession. He always made his charges just as he pleased, and was not at all persuaded to depart from them, by any consideration of what others charged. He approved of a provincial fee bill. Thought it would educate the public up to our prices.

H. D. ROSS considered that we should not stipulate before hand as to prices; but that when an operation is finished, the charge should be made according to the time occupied and the difficulty of the operation. Low rates of charges are always associated with inferior talent and inferior work.

W. R. PATTON was strongly in favor of raising our prices. For a filling done in Canada just as good as in the United States, well-off Canadians will grumble at \$2.50 where a "Yankee" pays \$10 and \$25, because the latter appreciates his teeth better than Canadians, and would no more think of having a tooth extracted because it is decayed, than a finger cut off because of a whitlow. Thought there should be a provincial fee bill.