

in its articles on the subject, taken a most decided and uncompromising stand against the use of amalgam for filling teeth, more especially during the time it was conducted by such able men as C. A. Harris, A. Westcott, W. H. Dewinell, S. Brown, Piggott, and E. Parmly, all of whom repudiated the use of amalgam, and those of them now living remain unchanged in their opinions on the question.

Mr. F. G. Callender, member of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons and professor at the Toronto Dental College, admits that he has for a long time past discarded the use of amalgam, unless in exceptional cases, and he agrees in the main with me as to its unfitness, but he denies that the College encourages its use. Mr. Chittenden, also a member of the same College, says:—"That the application of mercurial paste should be limited to teeth so frail, or not sufficiently fixed in the socket to admit of any but the gentlest handling." Is not this theory of limitation an admitted recognition of the baneful effects of amalgam? If for mechanical considerations, amalgam may be used in one tooth, regardless of consequences, why not in another? There can be neither honesty nor consistency in the use of a compound, which the operator believes to be pernicious, for the sake of overcoming a mechanical difficulty. Better by far extraction of the tooth, than the absorption of poison into the system. A surgeon may as well, rather than sacrifice a limb, let the patient die from gangrene and mortification.

In the face of these eminent American authorities, Mr. W. G. Beers, co-editor of the *Canada Dental Journal*, not only defends the use of amalgam, but has the hardihood to state that I am guilty of using a compound which I condemn as malpractice. To the latter assertion, I conscientiously affirm that never in my twenty years practice have I used mercurial paste. Mr. W. G. Beers, with the same regard for truth, denies my assertion that the American Society of Dental Surgeons unanimously, in 1845, carried a resolution condemnatory of the use of amalgam. I think the following extracts from the proceedings of the Society, dated New York, August 9, 1845, will be sufficient refutation even for Mr. W. G. Beers.

Firstly, it is stated, "that the objects of this Society are the mutual improvement of its members and the protection of themselves and the public against the quackery and empiricisms which are the disgrace of the profession."

"The Society does not presume in this communication to speak of more than a single one of those base deceptions by which individuals calling themselves dentists are imposing on the community. We allude to the practice of filling decayed teeth with amalgam, known under the name