

the association can point with pride to past achievements, and urge them as a guarantee for its future action.

Two years ago, at the instigation of some of our American graduates abroad, the National Association appointed a standing committee, to be called the Committee of Foreign Relations, whose duty it should be to take into consideration the condition of the American dental degree in Europe, and to institute such measures as would prevent the reception of unqualified foreign students by our schools, and to endeavor to give a better understanding of American educational affairs in Europe. It was given authority to appoint European Boards for the purpose of furthering the objects committed to its care, and it was also charged with the attempt to suppress fraudulent and unrecognized American colleges, plenary powers to use association's funds, and even to levy assessments, being bestowed upon it. These extraordinary prerogatives betokened the intense interest which the representatives of the colleges felt in the work. The committee so appointed has labored anxiously and uninterruptedly. It has named the nucleus of a European organization, which it is hoped will be of great benefit to dental educational interests. It has carried on a suit against the most flagrant irregular institution, and has secured a decree condemning it. Before this could be made effective, it became apparent that the repeal of some of the vicious legislation under which incorporation of fraudulent colleges was possible must be secured, and accordingly, in the State of Illinois, bills to accomplish this were introduced, and against strenuous opposition were pushed through the legislature and have become laws. It is believed that if the committee is sustained by the united voice of the profession its future labors will be more easy, and the entire suppression of all fraudulent schools will be accomplished.

We believe there will be none to dispute the assertion that in the teaching of practical dentistry the dental schools of America have not been excelled by those of any other country. The trouble has been that, for lack of general legislative regulation, the standard of preliminary study has been too low. It is utterly impracticable to raise this to the proper point at one time. Until there shall be a public sentiment created that will sustain effective enactments, it is idle to attempt drastic measures. Such action would only divide the profession and exclude schools which, if the proper time can be given, must of themselves raise their standard to the right level. A regulation that is but a dead letter is far worse than none at all, for it brings law into disrepute. It is utterly hopeless to look for harmony of action through separate state enactments. There must first be an agreement among the representatives of the profession, and then unanimity of action on the part of those of all the states. The attempts at repressive or