

In making dentistry a distinct profession, Dr. Chapin Harris and his contemporaries were wise in their generation. It was never intended to make a perfectly definite distinction between the primary studies of anatomy, physiology and chemistry, but the average dental student got a mere sessional smattering of these three branches until the National Association of Dental Faculties increased the period of study to three years. Many who fully appreciate the pioneer work of the early men of Baltimore, are yet free to believe, that dentistry would have attained quite as notable progress, without infringing upon a title which at the time was recognized as the exclusive possession of the profession of the physician. How much better, it seems to us, it would have been to adopt some such title as "Master of Dental Surgery," or as in Britain and Canada, "Licentiate of Dental Surgery," and to have left the degree of "Doctor" undisturbed, as a higher title to which students might aspire.

Imagine the oculists and aurists separating themselves from general medical studies, cutting off from their curriculum all that does not pertain specially to the eye and the ear, and claiming that in such a departure the diseases of these two organs would have more thorough study. It would be simply absurd. When the degree of doctor was created in dentistry, our profession was largely mechanical. There were a few men who contended for its constant affiliation with general medicine, but dental pathology and therapeutics were vaguely understood. There was at the time no reason, why the dentist could enter a claim to share in this title on the basis of the slim education which the dental colleges then gave. Certainly we have made great strides. So have medicine and surgery. Yet we can no more pretend to-day than fifty years ago, that we have an equal claim with the original possessors of the degree of doctor to use that title. The fact that there are doctors of philosophy, of science, and of divinity, is no argument, because neither of these encroach upon any branch of the healing art, and it can never be imagined that they assume to possess the doctorate in medicine. No fair argument can be advanced why the dentist educated exclusively along the lines of dental teaching, even in the best of our colleges, should claim a right to use on equal terms, a title which is widely recognized as involving a medical and surgical education of the most comprehensive character.

Anyone familiar with the course demanded of the surgeon in Britain will not question its thoroughness, yet the British surgeon is a plain "Mr." The course of dental studies in Britain to obtain the right to practise is more comprehensive than that required by the National Association of Dental Faculties, yet the British dentist is a plain "Mr." In Canada, after a course of three and a half or four years of twelve months each year, the Board of Examiners