

their last dentist, apparently believing that dentists have so little fine feeling of honor and *esprit de corps* for one another, that they appreciate any revilement of co-workers they (the patients) may choose to offer. If a man is a quack and an impostor, we have no hesitation in stating our opinion of such a one; but if he is merely a poor operator, trying honestly to do his best, even if he stands aloof from our Associations, and does not subscribe to the Journal, we have no hesitation in saying all the good of him we know, and none of the evil. That this is a principle common to many, long before we were born, or dental ethics ever heard of, we are well aware; but we happen to know some fine *professing gentlemen*, who do not stickle at other measures.

A lady called professionally, some weeks ago, stating that she was a patient of Dr. ———; one of the best operators in this country. Two years ago she had had nine or ten cavities filled with gold by him, and six of these fillings had fallen out, while the remainder looked very shaky. Dr. ——— came in for her criticism; and we all know that while the ladies are our best friends, professionally, when we gain their confidence and esteem, they make very bad enemies when we lose their favor—with all respect to them. Upon examining the teeth, I saw that she entirely neglected hygienic precautions, and her mouth was offensive in the extreme; the teeth covered with tartar, and the remaining fillings so discoloured and gray that they could hardly be recognized.

Now here was an opportunity to vilify or defend an eminent confrere. By the former we would gain the lady's custom and that of many friends she would influence, but this at the sacrifice of all moral and professional honor. We assured the lady that, not only from the reputation of our confrere, but from the appearance of the fillings remaining, we had no doubt but that the work was well and honestly done; but that the best fillings in the world were not proof against such uncleanness as her mouth exhibited, and that we were rather surprised than otherwise to find any left.

Other cases present themselves to every dentist where he has opportunities to get some of that class of patients who would as soon go to one Dentist as another, but who have made appointments or arrangements with some certain one. It may happen, for instance, that one Dentist has extracted the teeth and prepared the mouth for an artificial substitute, and that the patient, as is foolishly the fashion in Canada, is not expected to make any payment until the set is