

before the goldsmith and, as she smiles at his blandishment, revealing to him the loss of a front tooth. With instinctive ingenuity he offers to carve for her a substitute of bone to fill the ugly gap and to fasten it to the adjoining teeth, as he fitted her ear-rings, by golden loops. Still, we must let the antiquarians in our profession enjoy their hobby, and trace, if they can, the practice of dentistry as coeval with the flood. When we remember that the Jewish rabbins averred that the worms of the grave had no power over Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Aaron, Miriam, Benjamin and David, it may happen that some inquisitive dentist, travelling in Hebron, may excavate their molars from ancient burrows, and exhibit to us operative dentistry that will put us to shame. Or it may be that some Canadian, fishing for trout in the Laurentides, may discover artificial teeth as contemporaneous with the *Eozoon Canadense*."

It is not, however, my object to discuss our history outside of the Province of Quebec, or even to eulogize the undeniable progress made in our science and art in Europe and America. The politics of dentistry have engrossed a great deal of our thought and time. They have materially improved the practice of dentistry. We are met here specially and seriously in our own interests, but I do not hesitate to say with emphasis that we are here much more in the interests of the public; that we may do what we can to raise the standard of our education and the tone of our practice; that we may encourage diligence and skill, and discourage among our future practitioners who constitute our students, the temptations to that slipshod practice which is simply mechanical and purely commercial. We have been confronted by educational circumstances which, curiously, exist nowhere else. To the science and theory of the profession, splendid, and in many ways unrivalled, contributions have been made by England, France and Germany; but practically it is intensely of English and American origin and growth, and the literature of the best practical text-books has been almost altogether English, while the prolific dental schools of our Republican neighbors have recently decreed that they will not receive students who do not understand English. The embarrassments of the former and the difficulty of the latter, so far as Quebec is concerned, were in a measure met by the way, in 1868, when we put our heads and our hands together in a united French-English Board of Examiners, and, in 1892, in a united French-English Faculty in this College. In the former the examinations are in both languages; in the latter the lectures and examinations are likewise in French and English. In this way, for nearly thirty years there has existed an unbroken concord, which might serve as an object-lesson to more important political organizations.

Just now the responsible authorities and stewards of the profes-