

taken has been wrong; some people have even done so wrongly themselves as to segregate themselves from the general body, because the actions of the general body were not precisely and exactly what they liked. But at this meeting, I myself and—what is of more importance—others have noticed that some of our differences are becoming smoothed over. I won't say are becoming smoothed over, but have become smoothed over, and the difference is now quite a thing of the past. In commending to you this toast, I can do no more than say that this is an essentially auspicious occasion for drinking our own health, because I think that some of our difficulties, and some of the differences of opinion that have troubled us for a considerable length of time, have within these last two days disappeared."

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### Editorial.

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#### "The Only One."

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Mr. Charles Tomes, in his inaugural address, which will be found upon another page, makes some apt remarks upon 'the self-styled practical man' in dentistry. While recognizing the importance, and in one sense the pre-eminence of manipulative skill, it is clear that without knowledge of the scientific principles the purely "practical man" is an empirical "surgeon" dentist.

Many of our readers have no doubt frequently been amused with the absurd claims put forth by some of these purely practical men. Any editor can testify to the fact, that it is by no means uncommon to receive as original discoveries, ideas which are perhaps a century old. In every city there are some practitioners who have learned what they know entirely outside of colleges, journals or books, and who have the temerity to tell their patients the most absurd yarns as to their practice. Recently a very well-educated party told us that a certain dentist claimed to be the only one in his city who filled the roots of teeth; the only one who made the "proper bridge-work" (which, by the way, was made entirely by a mechanical assistant); the only one who made contour gold fillings; the only one who treated abscessed teeth; the only one who was "not a mere theorist."

At the same time, when the naked truth was told, he was the only one who had never had any other training than what he received with an obscure third-class dentist; the only one who had never listened to a medical or dental lecture, the only one, in short, who is mean enough to make capital for himself by deliberate falsehood and impertinent assumption, and just as long as the public will swallow the statements of these advertising liars, "the only one" will always get public support, even if he gets professional contempt.