

information one picks up when visiting his confrères in this way is frequently invaluable. Almost every one seems to have a professional fad of his own ; some revolutionize everything they buy from the depots, and make ingenious alterations enough to fill a Patent office. Many of our members have conceived and brought forth inventions of rare value, to such an extent, that the Patent office of every country has scores of modelled testimonies to dental ingenuity. The office and laboratory which specially struck us is a model in its way. Not one notion and improvement but dozens in every direction.

Now why is it, that with all this wealth of ideas among our Canadian practitioners, it seems so hard to induce them to put them in print ? When you visit them, they welcome you and show you everything ; but they are shy of writing. And most of them can write well ; but they wait for some divine *afflatus*, when a half-hour at any time of leisure would do to give our readers many a feast of mechanism and flow of ideas.

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### Exchange of Practices.

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Men who honestly work body and brain as busy dentists do, have good excuse to steal away for a frequent rest, even at the risk of earning a reputation as truants. There is no profession, and few trades, so injurious to health in the long run as an active operative practice. That is a settled statistical fact. If one has opportunity to contrast the tired, worn faces in a dental convention, with those of a medical assembly, a trade or commercial meeting, the force of this statement is apparent. The sun which shines on the face of the physician, driving on his round of visits, shines, if it shines at all, on the dentist's back, while he stands at his chair. The few hours of daylight are the only hours he can work to advantage. He must "make hay while the sun shines." He must utilize day-light for all it is worth. The question of his health is the vital one of his pocket. He cannot delegate his labour to an assistant ; when he stops work, revenue stops, but expenses run on. Many a poor fellow metaphorically digs his own grave by compulsory devotion to his daily work ; but the most of men could indulge in a rest if they would. At best, however, the dentist in Canada cannot afford to idle months away unless he leaves a substitute in his office ; and one of our difficulties, especially under the Ontario law, is to get a substitute. What a capital idea it would be if we could exchange practices as the clergy exchange pulpits. Imagine Dr. Molar, of Toronto, asking Dr. Incisor, of Halifax or Victoria, to let him enjoy the salt air of the Atlantic or Pacific in exchange for the fresh water of Lake Ontario. How mutually delightful it would be, if it could be made financially agree-