

and operators in our own profession, as well as the theoretical and practical courses required for graduation in our dental colleges, and in such an institution as that of the Applied Science of McGill.

At the same time, we must recognize with imperative force, that the dentist whose education does not embrace to-day the fundamental subjects of anatomy, physiology, chemistry, materia medica, histology, part of pathological anatomy, oral surgery and microscopy, is an imperfectly educated man, "a fractionally qualified being." It is not an impossible educational feat to take an average boy out of the gutter, and in a year or two produce a fair and sometimes a first-class mechanical dentist. It is quite probable that a very fair practical operator may be made out of a man who can neither write, read nor spell his mother tongue. Such a man may even rise to a high pinnacle in public opinion, because public opinion asserts its right to judge for itself in matters it does not understand. Technical and manual skill are indispensable; but they are so much more easily attained that students are apt to slight the preliminary branches upon which they are founded. As dentists, we have frequent experience of the ignorance medical men display of the direct and indirect diseases of the teeth. Having abandoned the teeth to the dentist, they are apt to overlook the relations of dental lesions to diseases of other parts. Cases are not infrequent of serious diseases originating directly in diseased teeth; of reflex ocular and aural disorders induced by dental irritation; of neuralgic affections of the most intense character; epilepsy and paralysis caused by carious teeth. The extensive sympathetic connections of the trigeminal nerve easily explain why the neck, face, throat or any of the parts associated that are supplied by the nerve itself, may be the seat of reflex trouble. Dental abscesses have been mistaken for scrofula. If there is one thing more than another which marks the highest dental standard to-day, from what it was a quarter of a century ago, it is not, by any means, the advancement in the mechanical and purely practical, but the closer connection established between the sciences embraced in bacteriology and pathology; the study of the relation of fermentation to caries, and the knowledge that just as the brain is dependent upon the heart and lungs for its supply of arterial blood, as the heart is dependent upon the brain for nervous energy, and upon the lungs to purify its blood; as the action of the lungs cannot be sustained without the influence of the nervous system and the propelling action of the heart, so is the dependence and interdependence of the dental organs upon their immediate neighbors, and frequently upon distant organs. We should therefore enjoy the legitimate pride in the reflection that, while we claim to be a distinct profession, dealing with the most prevalent disease of the