

the "Doctor" of Dental Surgery for a "minor qualification." His qualifications to practice his profession are not only fully up to the standard of those of the student who has to practice medicine, but his clinical qualifications are infinitely superior, simply because he has a hundred opportunities to perform operative and mechanical work upon the teeth, to the one which the medical student can possibly enjoy, during his four years' course in any medical school in the world. The business in life of the dentist is to save or replace the teeth. The diseases of the teeth are few. The opportunities for practice are present in the mouths of almost every citizen, well or ill. Decay of the teeth is the most prevalent disease in existence. At a glance, anyone can see, that when the dental student becomes a D.D.S. he has received a major qualification, and, all things being equal, is infinitely more equipped to tackle the diseases of the teeth, than the medical student who becomes an M.D. is equipped practically, to treat the many diseases of the body which were embraced in his curriculum. The University of Toronto recognized this fully ; so have twenty-nine universities in the United States. The dental students of Ontario and Quebec to-day, pass a matriculation examination fully up to the standard of that required for entrance to the study of medicine. The term of study is longer, because it embraces three or four years of twelve months each—the time that is not passed in college being passed in daily practice in the office of the dentist.

As I remarked before, it is too late to obliterate the D.D.S. It would also be a gross injustice. Dentistry is now recognized as a distinct and separate profession, and while I agree with you that a full medical and surgical course would add to the general and special knowledge of the dentist, and enable him to go beyond the bounds of purely dental practice, the interests of the profession and the public whom we serve demand, that we develop and improve the special theoretical and practical studies which pertain to the treatment of the teeth and their adjacent structures, embraced in the curriculum to-day of the D.D.S., as demanded by the National Association of Dental Faculties.

Yours,

B.

[Since the above was written, the "Dental College of the Province of Quebec" has been affiliated to the University of Bishop's College, for the purpose of obtaining the degree of D.D.S. Full particulars will appear in the February issue.—ED. D.D.J.]