

In occasionally referring to the profession of dentistry as overcrowded in Canada, we had to admit that we based this statement upon the average condition of the public intelligence regarding the functional value of the teeth. If the public even fairly well appreciated the importance of these organs, dentistry would not, and in fact could not, very easily be overcrowded so long as the present standard of admission and study was maintained. Towns and villages where now one or two dentists starve would support half a dozen in comfort. Imagine a city such as Three Rivers, in Quebec Province, with a population of over 12,000, giving a bare existence to only two dentists. What is the matter?

The matter is, briefly, not only the fact that the press has been so widely used by impostors that their imposture is the standard by which many of the people judge dentistry; that throughout the country districts teeth are extracted by the quart by ignorant or selfish physicians; but, that there are very few physicians anywhere who condescend to inform themselves of the diseases of the teeth and their connection with the departures from a normal standard of health. It is not our purpose to discuss this phase of the subject, but merely to allude to it *en passant*. What is wanted to-day is not so much that the dentist should be educated in medicine and surgery, as that the dense ignorance of the average physician should be illuminated by a better knowledge of dentistry. If the physician knew his duty in this matter and did it, dentistry in Canada would not be overcrowded.

OUR GASCONS.

Many ethical and honorable practitioners suffer from that excess of modesty which deters them from even self-defence. If one carries out the injunction to give the left cheek to the smiter who has smitten the right, he will get more cuffs than he deserves. The fear of being accused of personal aggrandisement dissuades many a man from exposing impostors. Fastidiousness in this respect may be carried far beyond the bounds of common-sense or justice.

For instance, in every city or town where there are a large number of dentists, it is not improbable that there will be found the swaggering gascon who glorifies himself in the public prints; a shallow, ignorant, and showy pretender; who knows that his confreres know how little he knows, and yet who by virtue of pretence and lying, draws a large practice from among the credulous. The chief qualification to secure business, in his estimation, is to dress like a Parisian dandy, not realizing that he looks like a