

a skilful man; there have been Napoleonic fakirs in all lines of life, but his methods are not those best calculated to ensure the best welfare of his patients.

There are several reasons why itinerant practitioners, even if skilful, cannot give as good services as regular practitioners. The itinerant has no fixed place of business, no regularly equipped surgery and laboratory. He must put up with the various inconveniences and annoyances of temporary quarters, consequently his services must vary with his circumstances. The quack, in moving from place to place, trusts to his advertising for patronage and does not gain permanent patients, hence it matters little to him what may be the result of his work, for he has no reputation to preserve or character to protect. The quack often, nay, nearly always, lays claim to skill far beyond the range of the regular dentist or physician. A moment's reflection will show that a person possessing such superior skill and powers could attain fame and fortune legitimately in any great city and must be a fool to turn peddler and give his services at half price. The quack having obtained his dupes' money, wishes quickly to be rid of them, and does not care what future trouble may ensue, hence it is positively dangerous to engage the services of such totally irresponsible persons. A case in point—several years ago a dentist came to Ottawa equipped with a brass band, a variety troupe and electric light. He sold patent medicines and extracted teeth by the thousands. Between the distracting noise of the band and the effect of a powerful drug contained in a bulb on the handle of the forceps he actually extracted a large number of teeth in a painless manner. What was the result? A large proportion of the teeth were broken in the rapidity of the operation, the victim being hustled down too quickly to discover this or make protest. A large number of good teeth were sacrificed, the extraction of which was little short of criminal. The last and most serious result was the subsequent inflammation and sloughing caused by the drug or some of its constituents. There were many cases of serious inflammation and suppuration, and in at least one case the victim was in danger of losing the whole lower jaw through caries. Such are the unlovely results of such wholesale malpractice.

The claims of these men to superior skill and special knowledge are totally unfounded. Each and every dentist in Ontario must attend the Royal College of Dental Surgeons for the full course and must pass the prescribed examinations. The opportunities for instruction are equally open to every student. Every effort is made by the professors to obtain the very latest methods and most modern appliances, and no improvement can exist for any length of time without its advent becoming a matter of discussion in the dental journals, which are widely circulated and read by professors,