

complaint could be that the discussion was not conducted in a fit and proper manner, that the dispute ceased to be scientific and became personal.

The Plaintiff in the article that called forth the one complained of by his action had a perfect right to condemn the use of amalgam.

He used that right, but unfortunately he did not stop there. After exposing its noxious properties and effects, he says: "The question is often and naturally asked why this amalgam is so generally used by a certain class of dentists." The answer can be found in one or all of the following explanations:

- 1st. The cheapness of the material.
- 2nd. The ease and facility with which it is used, for it can be put into the most difficult cavities with as much ease as so much putty or wax.
- 3rd. It makes up for the want of skill and ability to use something better.

4th. From ignorance or the want of honesty.

The Defendant replied to this article in the *Canada Journal of Dental Science* in the same temper. Not content with refuting that part about the amalgam in point of fact, he says: "Dr. Bowker, you are an imposter; you yourself use this 'very article which you condemn in others.'" Now this is a libel like the first; but the first was a libel on the profession, while the second is one on Dr. Bowker. If he had considered himself libelled as a member of the profession, Beers might have sued the author, but he did not do so, but he libels again. It is to be observed that he is charged with a *wanton* and *malicious* libel. Now it cannot be considered such, but was written under provocation, and not wantonly or maliciously. This will go in mitigation of damages, which I have placed very low. Judgment for 50 shillings damages and costs of an action of the lowest class in the Superior Court. *A. & W. Robertson* for Plaintiff; *Carter & Keller* for Defendant.—*Montreal Herald*.

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### NURSES.

Montreal is sadly in want of good nurses, and there is no good reason that such should be the case. Not only is there a want of trustworthy monthly nurses, but also of those who should attend the sick. A nurse that attends a fever case, or a patient suffering from a sharp attack of any disease, should not

take charge of a child-bed patient; nevertheless, such is frequently done in this city, although both patient and medical attendant have been entirely ignorant of the fact. Not long ago, we were asked by a nurse already engaged for an accouchment case, to be allowed, in the meantime, to take charge of two children suffering from scarlet fever.

We do not wish to infer there are no good nurses in Montreal, but they are very few, and, as a consequence, are always engaged.

A nurse not only requires to have intelligence, kindness and firmness, but she should be a good cook as well, a good cook for the sick and to be able to attend to her own duties without setting all the servants of the house "up in arms" against her. Until lately we thought the race of Sairey Gamp and Betsey Prig were extinct, but it was our misfortune to engage one who was highly recommended, and we discovered, to our disgust, that a little flask she carried about her was better attended to than our patient. She was a generous nurse, however, and rather an improvement on Sairey and Betsy, inasmuch as often as she partook of the contents of the flask, our patient was invited to do the same, and when told it was contrary to the doctor's orders, her answer was, "drat the doctor, he is only a young man and has no experience. I am an old woman, and have seen more babies born than he ever will." It is needless to say, our nurse was relieved of her duties, and allowed the liberty of offering her hospitalities to others.

There are many poor respectable women in Montreal who are quite capable of becoming excellent nurses, if they only had the training, and there are institutions in the city quite capable of affording them that training, if it were only brought before the authorities in the proper manner, and their co-operation asked. If this were done, the profession would be supplied with trustworthy nurses, both for the sick and their lying-in cases, and a means of livelihood offered to many a deserving person.

Dr. Thynne remarked, "that nurses, like poets, were born, not made," but a woman, if not born a nurse, by education can always be made one.

Montreal is large enough to support a training institution, and all that is wanted is a commencement to be made. An association could be formed of ladies and medical gentlemen, under whose government the institution could be placed.

No better plan could be followed than to copy the St. John's House institution of London. It is now almost self-supporting, and in a very short time such would be the case here.