

The ball and socket principle of the head-rest is a pretty toy, but it is utterly unreliable in anæsthetic cases, and generally a nuisance. Those of us who spend so much of our lifetime at the chair ought to be the best judges of what we need. What we need is much less complicated machinery and more solidity and comfort for patient as well as operator. Our leading manufacturers take hints like these in a proper spirit, even if a complainant loses his temper; but there are others who take such complaints as a personal insult, and who will not admit a defect unless they get their own necks nigh broken.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THERE is nothing easier, or meaner, than the flippant criticism of men who rarely or never contribute to our literature, yet who assume to turn over the pages of a monthly periodical, and show how it can be improved. Any ordinary donkey can do that much. Indeed it seems to be one of the supreme gifts of donkeys. To the average reader, especially if he has never had any experience in the diverse duties of a journalist, it seems an easy task to gather together appropriate material month after month. It never occurs to these critics, that unless an editor depends almost exclusively upon his scissors and makes his journal a rehash of his rivals, he has to beg, and plead, and worry for original contributions; that he has to, metaphorically, get down on his knees to the provincial society secretaries for prompt reports, or for any reports; and that the labor of correspondence alone in these matters is a very serious inroad upon the leisure which is due to his private and professional business. We have had model secretaries; but some of these gentlemen, so solicitous for office, forget that it is their duty to give the JOURNAL some sort of an official report. If we exposed the facts in connection with these difficulties, our critics would saddle upon the shoulders of the secretaries the blame which an editor is apt to receive.

An editor has a right to expect more support from the officials. He has a right to expect some more local patriotism. If he discovers a systematic official attempt to keep information from the licentiates, he has a right to expose it. He has a right to expect more contributions from many whose education qualifies them to assist. If the only dental journal in Canada has no right to expect such substantial financial backing from the representative associations, as is given to the *Journal of the British Dental Association*, and by local and state societies in the United States to the leading journals which publish their proceedings, it makes no