

and to his reverence for the father of dental journalism and the founder of the first dental college. Perhaps there is nothing which more graphically shows the growth in the art and science of dentistry within the past fifty-seven years than to compare the first edition of 338 pages, issued in 1839, with the present issue. In reviewing the former, in the *American Journal of Dental Science*, in 1839, Dr. Solymon Brown said, "No dental work of exactly a similar character has ever been issued by the American press, and thence it comes in competition with the work of no living author on this side of the Atlantic." What a contrast to-day, with our libraries laden with text-books by the score and journals by the dozen! And yet this historic work, original in many ways in its conception and execution, is one of the literary and scientific achievements of a great and wise man, which posterity will not let disappear. To the student of the history of practical dentistry the first edition and the last are marvellous links, which should bind the hope of the present with the labors of the past, and suggest to us possibilities of the future. Comparing the barrenness of theoretical and practical knowledge of 1839 with the fertility of 1896, we have an amazing retrospect. While many additions have been made to our knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of the teeth and associate parts, dental pathology and therapeutics have undergone a complete revolution in all their relations to the gums, the periodontal membrane, the pulp, the calcic deposits of the teeth, etc.; dental surgery in the treatment of dental caries, the use of anæsthetics, etc., has made equivalent and rapid strides with general surgery; prosthetic dentistry, while it has emerged from the restrictions of metallurgy, has, however, brought into practice the vileness of vulcanite and a deterioration in the way of cheap and nasty laboratory work, as well as a reckless regard among a certain class of dentists for the preservation of the natural teeth. Then, with great progress, some great evils have been born, as a law of nature which clings to the skirts even of our moral reforms. With the abandonment of superstitions, which are now ancient history, such as the unscientific cry against amalgam, the pathological prejudice against the extraction of hopeless teeth in alveolar abscess, complicated with excessive swelling, we have got into certain fads and fanaticism, before which, like the crown and bridge work craze, many prostrate themselves in thoughtless admiration, who in the sweet by and by, not very far distant, will find reason for reproach. Moderation is counselled, but few practise it, and those who do may perhaps be regarded as old fogies, behind the times. We have been unwittingly led into these remarks by the pleasure it gives us to handle the new edition of the only work we possess which brings the days of old back to us. The first edition was issued before many of us in practice were born. In face of the develop-