

new Board, in the reports of the officers, nor at any interval, are the licentiates supplied with proper information as to the business done by the Board. If a similar state of affairs existed in Ontario for one year, much less for three, there would be a licentiates' rebellion. The dentists of Nova Scotia also enjoy the same annual source of information. It is preposterous that the skimmed reports supplied only once in three years should be presented as sufficient to satisfy Quebecers. Every motion and the names of the movers and seconders—in fact, a complete copy of the minutes should be annually furnished in printed form. It is neither advisable nor convenient to read them all over at the meetings, as they should be read in two languages. It is better that the licentiates should know, as they know in Ontario and Nova Scotia months before the meeting, just what business the trusted stewards have transacted. It is essentially important, too, that they should have details as to the expenditure of their money. In all this, Ontario has the fullest information.

"ON THE FENCE."

We cannot understand that moral cowardice which is afraid openly to praise or condemn, but which sits timidly on the fence, ready to drop on either side, as the infirmity of purpose or interest may decide. We have vacillating members of our profession who hesitate to-day, as they might have done forty years ago, to express confidence in the saving merits of amalgam, and to disapprove of the unscientific nonsense occasionally written as to its "constitutional effects." Yet now they use it quite openly and frequently, when once upon a time they only used it on the sly. In conventions they, once upon a time, aimed to get credit as exclusively gold operators, or, at best, left the amalgam question *ad referendum*, either on account of constitutional inability to be firm or constitutional hypocrisy. Unless one has experimentally and scientifically proved his opinions they must be based upon ignorant prejudice. That was exactly the situation forty years ago or more. There was plenty of excuse for conviction founded upon pure conjecture half a century ago, both medical and dental. Men then jumped to conclusions, absolutely ignorant of phenomena which are so much clearer to us to-day. Every now and then some lineal descendant of the capricious practitioners of half a century ago, discovers a mare's nest, and persuades some of our contemporaries to print his shilly-shally nonsense. The dental profession does not relish such nonsense, even "now and then." Men who write it, and who fail to add anything new to the arguments offered in 1841, ought to be in league with the cranks who believe that the earth is square, and that the moon is made of green cheese.