

Or, there are Barber surgeons — Chemists — Apothecaries. — Watch-makers — Goldsmiths and other tradesmen who appropriate so far as they consider needful the technical work,* then practise every thing connected with the dental department. Solitary cases where persons have raised themselves through innate energy and assiduity must be regarded as exceptional.

Or again, there are medical students and even medical men who all at once get the idea into their heads to practise dentistry. — To make a rubber set of Teeth is soon learnt and that accomplished, they flatter themselves they are first-class dentists. They are probably not in a position to faultlessly perform the simplest gold filling and yet they condescendingly look down on their other colleagues, write themselves † Dr. of medicine — Medical practitioner and Dental practitioner — often with the addition Professor or Teacher and Examiner; although they hardly have a conception of the different diseases of the Teeth nor what remedies to have recourse to.

Many a one, through need, qualifies himself by reading practical and instructive guides or impelled by native integrity seeks good counsel from Dentists of known reputation but the wished for information is either not imparted in the proper manner, or so miserably and unmethodically that they comparatively, become only competent through their own energy and industry.

The main point however, *the preservation of the Teeth* through solid and lasting fillings, one can only learn under a *capable instructor*, to be perfected by the opportunities of practise.

If I could show the letters I receive, which ever increase in number, as examples (and I am sure I must consider them as such), it grieves me sorely that our schools for instruction fail in assisting such active assiduity. I have indeed on three occasions, when the parties had advanced to the second class in the gymnasium, accepted such as pupils; but when they had learned how to treat painful Teeth and then fill them with the different materials employed to extirpate a nerve — to extract Teeth — to adjust Pivot Teeth — to take impressions and make Rubber work etc., yet I have mentally felt that of *fundamental solidity*

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† In the German titles of Dr. they general precede the word Arzt with praktisch—meaning practising his profession.