

meeting was held, which met with a heartier response. The following were present: Messrs. Brewster, Bernard, Bazin, Trestler, Leblanc, Webster, Belle, Alloway, Valois, Nichols and Beers, of Montreal; McKee, of Quebec; Lefavre, of St. John's; Dowlin, of Sherbrooke, and Brodeur, of St. Hyacinthe. There were a few men who believed they had encompassed the limits of dental knowledge, and that the best education was to be sought for at the bench of the jeweller, or, at best, in the laboratory. They opposed the Dental Act of Incorporation, as they would, had they lived in the days of Moses, have opposed the passage of the Ten Commandments, as an arbitrary piece of legislation. The proposal made at that remote date, that the student should embrace in his curriculum certain of the medical and surgical branches, was considered as preposterous as a suggestion that he should study Sanscrit. The cry went forth that the only knowledge a dentist needed was practical, that a dentist had no more need of a knowledge of the anatomical and histological structures of the teeth and adjacent tissues, than a barber had of the physiology of the hair in order to cut it, or a butcher of the comparative anatomy of the cow, in order to serve the public with a sirloin or a fillet. This conviction of the exclusive importance of practical knowledge, no doubt, originated the sarcastic expression that the dentist was nothing but a "tooth carpenter;" and yet it seems to animate some otherwise enlightened members of our profession to-day. And, indeed, no inconsiderable portion of the public are not only led by the same opinion, but voluntarily invite all sorts of imposture from advertising humbugs. Even to-day it would seem as if a portion of the public, and not alone in the townships, revel in the prospect of their own deception, and measure men not by their professional or collateral education, but by the loudness of their pretensions. I am sure that no sensible practitioner depreciates practical skill. None of us can succeed without it. It would be a gross incongruity to pretend to ignore the importance of a branch which this college and the Board of Examiners so emphatically enforce. It would be foolish to disparage any branch of the mechanical arts, especially when in this city, by the munificence of Mr. W. C. McDonald, the University of McGill has now in operation the most complete course of instruction on this continent in Applied Science, embracing the finest workshops and museums, as well as perfectly equipped laboratories in mathematical, chemical, physical, electrical, magnetic and testing branches. I look forward to the time when the curriculum of our own college will be privileged to embrace some of these branches in this magnificent institution. The superstition that a man cannot be both theoretical and practical was founded upon ignorance. No better annihilating retort can be made to such an assumption, than the record of the best thinkers