

for he dedicates his book to Marie Henriette de Bourbon, sister to the reigning king ; and it is published at the appropriate sign of the Three Golden Teeth, in Paris. It is remarkable, we may say in passing, that the literature of toothache is so meagre. An ailment of such ancient standing in the world's history might be expected to obtain more frequent and detailed notice. Such modern treatises as exist are purely technical, and undeserving of the name of literature. There is in them nothing historical, nothing human and sympathetic to the view of the sufferer. Even in the ordinary life of to-day there is no disease which gains us so little pity from our friends. It is not fatal, they say, and are apt to be impatient with our groans. And we ourselves, once the attack is over, straightway forget what manner of torture it was, and go unthinkingly about our daily business. Now, this is surely wrong. It may be true that toothache never killed anybody directly ; but assuredly, if analogy goes for anything, it has been the cause of crime and death. Imagine an absolute monarch with an obstinate tooth. It would be a grim amusement to him, almost a necessity, to sign a death-warrant. There have been martyrs to toothache in another than the ordinary usage of the term.

But to return to Maistre Arnauld. The first thing to note is that he advises the specialization of dentistry. "It is very necessary that dentists should have no other vocation." He has known instances where patients have died from hæmorrhage because the ignorant drawer of teeth did not know how to stop the bleeding. The world, he says, by way of peroration may think the title "Drawer of teeth" strange, and perhaps despise it. But Maistre Arnauld glories in it as very useful to the public, "and does not do, like an infinity of others, who, coming to this town [of Paris], call themselves grand operators. He is happy to do his task well, to take the little fee that is given him, and is never ill-content." It is only lately that in England the Royal College of Surgeons recognized dentistry as a special branch of medicine. Some twenty-five years ago their dental certificate was established. Before that, the craft was confined to tooth-drawing mainly, and had for its professors the local barber, blacksmith, or watchmaker. We are now beginning to see that unlicensed practitioners do a lot of mischief. The ancient Egyptians were before us in this field ; for Herodotus tells us that no doctor in Egypt was permitted to prac-