

not possess a *life-like* appearance, without which it is comparatively valueless. A great deal of tact and taste is required on the part of the Dentist, to combine elegance, beauty, and a correct *expression* of the features, with the exigencies of actual service. It is in the *combination* of these—appearance and service—that most of us fail. We find in nature the most perfect and beautiful conformation without that mechanical regularity and precision which characterise most sets of artificial teeth, and which renders the detection of them as such, unavoidable, however serviceable they may be. This is caused more by the appearance of *each particular tooth* in relation to the whole number of teeth, than to the exactness of the entire piece, in the same manner that harmony of all the features gives character to the countenance. In nature no one tooth can be made to take the place of another without marring the whole denture, as well as the whole face. Not only in form and size, but in color and shading, we find nature sustaining this relationship by an almost imperceptible variation in each class of teeth, according to the complexion and anatomical symmetry of the face. * *

I grant that it requires a nice judgment on the part of the Dentist in selecting teeth for the various cases with which he meets, to detect these variations with accuracy; particularly, as there is an almost endless variety of shades and tints in the different classes of human teeth. Unfortunately, the manufacturers of artificial teeth have not as yet been able to supply us with such a variety as we require, so that we are very often compelled to use those which are not well adapted to the case which we have in hand. I admit that very great improvement has been made in the manufacture of teeth since rubber first came into use, but there is still room for improvement. In form, most of the *sections* of gum teeth are far from perfect; single gum teeth are much further from perfection than the sections. *

* * * * * It is to be hoped that as chemical combinations become more thoroughly understood, we shall be able to obtain teeth, modelled so exactly after the natural organs in form, size and shading, that we shall be able to construct sets of teeth for our patients so perfect in appearance that they cannot be detected.

THE DIGNITY OF THE PROFESSION.

BY W. G. BEERS, MONTREAL.

Continuing this subject from the February number, we purpose briefly