

practical skill and ability as a dentist, that he should be a failure as a steward and an examiner. Men who cannot explain or answer their own questions, most of which they copied from old college calendars, are unfit to hold office; but apart from this, aspiring men need a little more experience of actual practice than a few years after graduation affords to fit them for such positions. And yet, we witness utterly inexperienced young men wanting to be leaders before they have learned to serve in the ranks; ready to assume the moral and legal application of laws and by-laws, the risks and responsibilities of litigation, the delicate and difficult business of adjusting conflicting interests, quite as gayly as they would undertake to fill a simple cavity in caries.

We emphasize the importance of caution and dispassionate judgment in selecting the stewards who, for the most critical three years of our history, will have the government of our interests. The next three years will either make or break the worth there may be in the possession of the license.

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### The French Language in Quebec Matriculation.

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Several correspondents in Ontario want to know why the matriculation examination in Quebec is so critically severe in the matter of the French language; so much so, that, as one puts it, "an applicant needs to be thoroughly well up in the grammar."

Our friends must remember that the French language was in use in Quebec long before a word of English was spoken on the continent; that it is as fully the legal language of the country in its courts and legislature as English; that our French brethren are largely in the majority; that their constitutional privileges must naturally be deferred to when questions arise such as those our correspondents mention. It must be remembered that the large majority of the text books in use in our dental curriculum are English; that the American dental colleges will not now admit French students who do not understand English, and that in many respects our fellow countrymen are professionally handicapped. To their credit be it said, they do much to overcome these difficulties. The lectures in the Dental School in Montreal are in both languages; the students are asked and answer questions before the Board of Examiners in their own language. There is in this matter perfect and pleasant harmony. It would seem justifiable that in a Province where the French language is so necessarily in every day use, that it should at least have as important a position in the list of matriculation subjects as the dead languages or mathematics.