

the sooner will some of the questions agitating our profession to-day be laid aside for good.

The object of this article is to pass a few words of comment on two questions that have been the subject for debate on numerous occasions. These two topics are: (1) The Use of Anesthetics; (2) The Use of Internal Remedies.

The dental graduate of to-day steps forth from college carrying his title, "Doctor of Dental Surgery," and yet how many dare to put into practice all the principles that title indicates. The college course is one place, but our actual office practice is quite another. In the dental college of to-day we find a special chair on anesthetics and anesthesia established; we find exhaustive lectures and demonstrations on physical diagnosis, and eventually we find the graduate placed on a level with the rural pedagogue who administers "laughing gas" for the edification of his scholars. Further we dare not go.

I venture to state that the dental graduate of to-day is just as capable of administering anesthetics as the medical graduate.

The average dental practitioner of to-day, when requiring a general anesthetic, except nitrous oxide, is under the necessity (?) of calling in, not a brother dentist, but a member of the medical profession. The weak front assumed by our profession in this matter tends to instil a lack of confidence in our patients, and little can we blame them when we take the initiative ourselves. I believe there even is a law in one or more of our provinces to prohibit dentists from administering chloroform! Does it not seem preposterous that in view of the progress that has been made in dentistry in recent years that we should sit idly by and witness the enactment of such a statute without vigorous opposition.

If the Dentist is an M.D. as well, the question of skill does not play any part in the public and professional verdict, but if he be a D.D.S. alone, the idea is at once conceived that he lacks the necessary ability to proceed.

A combination of the title, M.D., and the necessary skill to administer the anesthetics may be desirable, but in the absence of the former, what more is necessary than the latter? The standing of dentistry to-day in the eye of the public is not taken from the college curriculum, but from the mode of operating, the skill exhibited, and the general professional bearing of the every-day dentist.

The stumbling-block in the way of the profession in the use of anesthetics may be successfully removed by either a fuller college course or proper legislation. The latter seems the only