

the features of otherwise intelligent and beautiful individuals.

While this may not be directly construed as a reflection on the dental profession in all instances, yet if the matter be sifted to its legitimate source it will be found that at bottom the profession is mostly responsible for it.

A people are largely influenced by the trend of thought followed by their professional advisers. One of the main offices of a professional man is to educate the community to the highest and best of which his profession is capable, and as an evidence that this may be successfully accomplished, we see material differences in the existing state of the teeth in different communities. In some localities we find the mouths well cared for and the natural teeth for the most part preserved, while in others the teeth are allowed to run riot and give way to artificial substitutes without number. And it is just at this stage of the present paper that I wish to begin to particularize. My purpose in bringing this subject before the dentists of Ontario is fostered by the fact that within the range of my experience I see more artificial teeth according to population worn in Ontario than in any other place I have ever visited. Lest there may appear to be a shade of provincial prejudice in such a statement, I hasten to add that I was formerly a practitioner in this fair Province myself, and am free to acknowledge that in all probability while here I put in my full quota of ill-advised and in-harmonious artificial teeth. For this species of mild malpractice I am impelled even at this late date to offer my humble apologies to the people, and to the profession whose standard I to that extent degraded.

And yet, in my most magnanimous mood I cannot quite bring myself to admit that in those days there was anything like the slaughter of natural teeth that we see to-day. I can vividly recall my own early efforts to educate the people in the care and preservation of the natural teeth, and while, as just admitted, I did not do all that I should have done in that direction, yet I feel that even in those days I accomplished something for the good of the people and the profession. It may be claimed that there was then a larger opportunity for doing good, with a smaller measure of discouragement than there is to-day. Dental offices did not exist in departmental stores, and the day of the full-fledged five-dollar-a-set man had not yet arrived. But the greater the necessity the more earnest should be the effort.

And this leads me logically into the consideration of some of the causes which have brought about the present status of dental practice in the Province. I have said that I see more artificial teeth worn here than anywhere else. I certainly see more young people with artificial teeth or defective natural ones than in any community I have ever visited. In encountering this wholesale exhi-