

the wreck of reputation upon the wholesale insertion of crowns and bridges, and indulgence in the fantastic fads—or frauds—of many of the junior practitioners. Perhaps I should not call them "frauds"; generally they do not know any better, and knowledge is the result of experience. A man of experienced practice can readily acquire any new practical idea which presents itself. But his experience helps him whether to accept or reject. And the judgment necessary in the latter is quite as valuable as in the former. We English people would be all the better for a little more of the Chinese reverence and respect for age and experience.

HEREDITARY CLEFT PALATE.

BY W. G. B.

Some years ago when I was much interested in the mechanical restoration of cleft-palates, by means of an improvement upon the Kingsley method suggested to me by Dr. E. B. Bogue, of New York, the number of cases which came to me for consultation was far more numerous than I had either the time or the inclination to tackle. The cost of a scientifically constructed apparatus (\$400.00), was, of course, a bar to its general use, and the many cheap devices offered deterred me from wasting further time in the matter. One early case, which I took to New York, and had constructed under Dr. Bogue's personal supervision, was in every sense a success, but the patient was obliged to have the velum removed, and an accident having happened to the type-metal moulds in his possession, it was impossible properly to renew that important part of structure; notwithstanding, the patient continues to use the old velum, curled up out of shape.

In studying the history of the many cases I met at the time, I had never been able to verify any proof of the hereditary character of cleft-palate, in spite of the fact that such cases were on record. Mr. Ramsay, in a paper read by him at the Odontological Society of Great Britain, in 1865, repudiated the hereditary character, and, if I am not mistaken, this opinion was held by Sir William Fergusson. Mr. Francis Mason, of St. Thomas' Hospital, however, cites several cases which came under his own observation. I have been much interested in the recent discovery of a well-known family in Montreal, in which there were three cases—two sisters and a brother, and a case of a French-Canadian cabman, who had himself a complete fissure of the hard and soft palates, and whose eldest boy had a cleft of the hard palate complicated with hare-lip.