

population that the country dentist should visit places distant from his own office. This service may be made of great advantage to the farming community, or it may be made a pretext for the greatest imposture. Our city population is no exception to the rage for cheapness. They rush to the bargain counters of the departmental stores in blind competition; they often spend two dollars to save one. The quack may not know his business, but he knows human nature. He is more of a knave than a fool; more likely to rob his patients than himself. The public demand for cheap manufactures can be met by shoddy work, by cutting down the wages of employees, by compromising with one's creditors. That for the cheap treatment of disease has no such facilities. Any manufacturer can cheapen his productions to suit his customers; but there is a point at which it would pay him better to withdraw his capital and discharge his employees. Any farmer's wife can sell her butter for ten cents a pound, or eggs for five cents a dozen; any country storekeeper can sell his goods below cost; they can, too, give them away for sweet philanthropy's sake, but it does not "pay." The quack medicine men who give advice free, and who seem so generous, are neither as philanthropic nor as clever as they pretend to be. They make fortunes—not out of philanthropy, but out of public credulity. The "tricks of trade" in dental practice are just the same. The travelling quack pretends to skill he does not possess; it is easy for him to deceive; it is just as easy for him to lie. It is necessarily his chief stock-in-trade. He has little or no professional education; the little he knows he has picked up at hap-hazard. If he did not depreciate educated men who act honorably, and misrepresent them, the mean beggar would starve. Anything has been good enough for him, and he thinks that anything in dentistry should be good enough for farmers! Even if he wanted to be honest now he cannot; he has forgotten, if he ever learned it.

In one sense it is humiliating to be obliged to allude to some of these questions. In some respects it is almost a waste of time. Notwithstanding the fact that we are working for the profession at large very much more than we are for ourselves, the profession at large does not give this work proper support.

The men who have done the hardest work for the profession in Canada, are men who needed social and other relaxation quite as much as the men who did nothing. But they gave time and thought and money of their own, that dentistry might rid itself of the ignorant quack and the sharper who resorts to quack-methods. It would have "paid" these workers better, had they given this time and thought to their own private business. More men have made fortunes by minding their own business, than by busying themselves about the higher interests of the profession. The