

the Boards found that neither the courts nor the Legislatures were disposed to give them a free hand to exact absolute compliance with the letter of the law, as it was considered a retroactive principle that might be used for persecution as much as for prosecution. The dilemma was met by as strict enforcement as possible. That a number of such cases occurred is within our knowledge.

However, the position of the Board of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons in this particular case is legally and morally unassailable. The applicant complied with all the requirements. If the declarations were false, the Board had no possible means of knowing it at the time. If any party or parties are prepared to prove them false, they should at least put these proofs before the Board in such form that action can be taken without involving the corporation in a suit for damages should they be disproved. A misapprehension exists as to the powers and duties of the Board. To begin a case, a statutory declaration from the complainants is necessary. This means a responsibility which the complainants do not appear willing to accept. That seems to us the matter in a nutshell. We admit the embarrassing appearance of the case; yet the remedy, if there is any, is quite simple. To expect the Board to assume the responsibility in court of disproving the facts presented to it under oath would be to expose the members individually to actions for damages should the charges fail. The least it has a right to expect is that the complainants who assert that the claims are false should personally assume this responsibility.

A HINT FOR PHYSICIANS.

Every adult should have thirty-two teeth and two eyes. If they had thirty-two eyes and two teeth, and could get the former replaced as easily as the latter, the idiots who want their natural teeth extracted because they are irregular, and the ignorant who are indifferent to their preservation, would likely in time find a degenerate class of oculists, who would make a business of extracting eyes, changing black ones for blue, and *vice versa*. Dentistry deals with the most prevalent disease in existence. Fortunately, or unfortunately, it is a disease that rarely involves death. But we have to face the fact that not only is the public largely as indifferent to the loss of the teeth as to that of the hair, but that the frequent attention and expense they may entail opens temptations to the patient who wishes to sacrifice them and the charlatan who is ready to encourage this ignorance.