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## Original Communications

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### A PROFESSIONAL WARNING.\*

By MARK G. MCELHINNEY, D.D.S., L.D.S., Ottawa, Ont.

The professions of medicine and dentistry are divided into two great classes, legitimate practitioners and quacks. Each of these professions, as the result of long experience, has accumulated a set of rules, written and unwritten, for the guidance of its members. These rules enjoin those lines of conduct that will conduce to the best interests of the practitioners, and ensure protection and the highest class of service to the public.

Those members of a profession who observe the spirit of these rules are looked upon as legitimate practitioners. Those who disregard the rules are called quacks. Nearly all start out in the legitimate line, but bad fortune, inability to face the long and weary struggle of practice building, bad counsel or example, desire to grow rich rapidly without considering the means, and many other causes weed out a percentage and send them forth to prey upon the world as quacks. Very few quacks succeed in making a brilliant success, for it requires a superlatively clever man to fool the public for any great length of time—the remainder of these sink lower and lower until they become mere street-corner fakirs. The quack holds the same relation to the legitimate practitioner that the tinker does to the skilled engineer, the scab to the honest skilled laborer, and the tramp to the reputable citizen. The quack is a professional tramp. The quack may be, in fact frequently is,

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\* Read before the Ottawa Dental Association, January 12th, 1897.