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Original Communications

A PLEA FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE NATURAL TEETH.*

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The Committee on Programme have assigned the above subject to me for a paper. Had they asked me to choose a subject for myself, this certainly would not have been the title.

That they have done so leads me to think that there is a necessity for something to be said on the subject. Where it exists, why it exists, and to what extent, I am at a loss to determine.

There may be a few, one or two, perhaps a score, of dental surgeons who need reconstructing in Ontario. That there are many I do not believe. In all learned professions there will be found some whose interpretation of the meaning of a word or the sense of a phrase is very different from the generally accepted idea. So we may have those among us who do not exactly grasp the meaning of the word "Dentistry," or more particularly the the symbolic combinations L.D.S., D.D.S. or M.D.S. That these should at the present day appear to be a necessity; that there should exist an idea of the necessity for a plea for the preservation of natural teeth at this stage of professional progress, is to abandon the whole status and retrograde forty years or more, to disband the profession, throw the fat into the fire, throw physic to the dogs, as it were, and seek some honorable calling in which

* Read before the Toronto Dental Society.