

ence, is a measure to be very seriously considered, even supposing it necessary to Medical Reform, but fortunately it is not necessary. For Ontario we have had in operation for a number of years, a Medical Bill that has certainly not been found ruinous to the interests of the Universities and Medical Schools. They have a representation of eight members in the medical council, and the general profession represented by territorial members. If the English College Councils are not utterly infatuated they will adopt some such compromise, and we heartily wish they may, as we certainly have no sympathy with the cry "*Delenda est Carthago*." We would have less scruple in joining the attack against the Apothecaries' Company, as we consider they have far less claims to the inviolability of corporate privileges. There can be no question that the spirit of the Apothecaries' Act of 1815 was most grossly perverted by the Company, and taking a dishonest advantage of an oversight in the Legislature, they have for years lorded it over the profession. It is true that in the time of Ridout, Wheeler, Randall and others, a very superior preliminary and medical curriculum was established, the examinations were thoroughly practical and comprehensive, surpassing even those of institutions of far greater pretensions, nevertheless the rights and existence of the Apothecaries, as a trading company, were quite incompatible with the profession. Barristers, Attorneys, and Law Stationers, might with equal propriety coalesce.

INJURIOUS EFFECT OF MERCURIAL AMALGAMS AS TEETH FILLINGS.

Our attention has been drawn to this subject by the many cases which are constantly occurring in practice illustrative of the evil effect of these fillings upon the system amounting to a slow process of poisoning. Amalgams of mercury with silver, gold, lead, tin and bismuth have been used for the purposes of fillings for teeth, the ill effect of which upon the health of persons so treated is, we fear, not appreciated as it should be.

The subject is one upon which much discussion has taken place during the past few years, among members of the dental profession, and although its use as a filling has been pretty generally deprecated on the ground of its injurious influence

upon the health, it is still in use by some. Neither the practitioner using it, nor the public can be at all alive to the health destroying influence which it is capable of exerting. A due acquaintance however, with the chemical nature of such fillings and the physiological effect of mercury upon the constitution should be all that is necessary to determine the attitude of any practitioner towards it.

A writer in the *Chicago Medical Journal* in 1874, charges "Amalgam plugs" with being capable of generating corrosive sublimate in the mouth through the action of the chlorine in the fluids of the mouth. He says, the symptoms are so numerous and varied in different cases, that it would be impossible to give them all, but I will say that a person poisoned in this way is liable to be treated for dyspepsia, neuralgia, paralysis, throat affection and consumption, the patient gradually wastes away as if going into a decline. In many cases the difficulty steals on so gently as not to excite the least alarm. There is a haggard expression, a metallic taste in the mouth, a foetid breath and excessive flow of saliva. I have not time to detail the manner in which the corrosive sublimate is formed in the mouth further than to say that the quicksilver in the plugs is driven off by the heat of the mouth, or any saline substance, such as our food, passes into the stomach and produces slow poisoning.

Instances of these effects have been met with in almost every physician's practice, and yet the real cause may have been overlooked. Many a delicate lady owes her ill health to this very source, and nothing will suffice as a remedy short of complete removal of the obnoxious material. The constitutional effects of mercury upon the system are not by any means confined to the mouth, and the dose necessary to their production is so very variable that their minuteness would be almost incredible if mentioned.

Piggot, in his work on the "chemistry and metallurgy," of dental surgery says of this mercurial, "to the chemist this question has but one side; it needs but to be stated to be immediately decided upon. The use of a mercurial amalgam is under all circumstances wrong for the simple reason that we have no guarantee that the most frightful results of mercurial poisoning will not take place."

Why incur so great a risk as is implied in this mercurial poisoning? The constitutional effects of mercury, are too well known to require mention,