

fundamental principles of dental science in those days, and how few of the instruments which we look upon as indispensable were in use at that time, we cannot help admiring their perseverance, and wondering at the degree of proficiency to which many of them attained. Many were the innovations to which they were obliged to submit, and many were the new methods which they were compelled to adopt. The use of cohesive gold and plastic filling materials, together with the introduction of the dental engine and rubber dam, made wonderful changes in the art of filling teeth, while the introduction of vulcanite practically revolutionized the mechanical department of dentistry. It is true all these, saving, perhaps, the last, were steps in advance, and as such were welcomed by the profession, but they were innovations nevertheless, and so made constant demands upon the patience and skill of those who made use of them. In view of these facts do we give the generation of dentists who have preceded us, and the older practitioners that are still living, all the credit that is due them for their work? We fear not. Taking into consideration the circumstances by which they were surrounded, they certainly deserve much credit for the excellent services they rendered to the people and to the profession, and we should not be slow in acknowledging our appreciation of them. A. H. H.

---

### Examinations.

---

As a rule, young men about to be examined are nervous and unconfident. An examination is never trivial even to the best prepared, and the best men are often the most nervous. We have seen aspirants march up to the cannon's mouth of an examination as confident as old soldiers, in spite of the warning that their ignorance was amazing. Young men usually discover near the end of the lectures how little they knew when they started, but it is not the same in clinical work. When a beginner finds he can fairly fill a difficult cavity with gold, he is apt to imagine that his education in that direction is complete. It is only when active practice brings him exceptional pathological cases, that he finds he has not finished his studentship. But any examiner is well aware that the boys who appear in fear and trembling, with loss of appetite and flesh, and what might be called "the student's diarrhoea," deserve kindly sympathy; and as a rule they get it, for every examiner ought to remember he was a boy and a student once. But occasionally an over-confident youth is found, who wishes it to appear that study to him is no weariness of the flesh; that the examination papers are not a matter of thought, but merely of penmanship; that large amplification of his personal opinions based upon a fertile imagination, must weigh with the examiners quite as much as the result of