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## Original Communications.

### The Relation of Logic to Dentistry.

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The object of this paper is not so much to lay before you any new ideas regarding the active practice of dentistry, but rather to present to you some of the difficulties that beset those who would intelligently observe the phenomena met with in practice.

The subject of this paper has been chosen because there is a belief prevalent that theories in over-abundance, with lack of proper data, are being presented to this profession. It is right for all to observe, and to give the benefit of their observations to the fraternity; but it is wrong to form a theory without sufficient data, and assert it, as some do, with all the egotism of ignorance. The question now arises, Are there any methods of, in some measure, avoiding errors in observations and inductions? Yes; by a special line of study, namely Logic, the investigator is enabled to observe and draw conclusions with the human possibility of being correct.

Logic is a study of the most practical value throughout every department of life. It is a subject the knowledge of which, if made compulsory to the student before entering upon the science of medicine (both general and special), would prevent many false speculations, and lessen the floundering in the pursuit of truth. The application of logic, while making the student's efforts more definite, must not be supposed to overcome all difficulties, and enable him to march with unerring steps to truth. Logic rather points out how many difficulties there are to contend with, and