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## Original Communications.

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### Dental Technique.\*

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It had been noticed for some time that students in the clinical departments of dental colleges were not as well trained in the use of instruments at the beginning of their course as was desired. To remedy this defect, Dr. G. V. Black, in 1888, introduced into the Chicago College of Dental Surgery a course on operative technics. The value of this course to dental students has been so fully expressed by Dr. C. N. Johnson, Professor of Operative Dentistry in the Chicago College of Dental Surgery, that I cannot do better than quote his remarks :

“ My experience as a teacher of operative dentistry has impressed upon me one thing—that no advance has been made in college teaching equal to the establishment of the course in operative technics. Before this system was taught, the student who approached a patient for the first time did so with a feeling of uncertainty. It was an experiment with him. He did not know whether his fingers would do what he had seen other fingers do. And more often he blundered than succeeded in the beginning. In fact, it was expected that he should make many mistakes before he made any successes.

“ With a rigid course of operative technics it is otherwise. The student makes his first halting steps at the work bench, and a

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\*Read before the Toronto Dental Society.