

when the opportunity ceased of loyalty to No. 1. And the consequence has been, that this class constitute the grievance-mongers in our ranks, who have a dog-in-the-manger existence, ready to conspire against established law and order, and defiant of all professional decency, by the length and the lies of their advertisements. This goes to show the importance of respectable practitioners strengthening the ranks of the provincial societies. Every man on the roll should count for the common ethical objects and customs to which these associations are committed. Every man out counts, whether he will or not, on the side of the enemy. It is the personal and professional interest of every one who seeks the respect of his *confreres*, and the confidence of the public, to ally himself with these societies. The public cannot be fooled forever, and the time is fast approaching, when those who have ignored the true interests of the profession, will find the bottom falling out of their pretentious public falsehoods. In one sense it may "pay" for awhile to be a charlatan, but in the long run it "pays" much better to be a man of honor, and to keep one's reputation unspotted from even the suspicion of humbug.

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### SIGNS OF DEGENERACY.

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When that curse of the profession, Vulcanite, was first introduced into Canada, the average fee for a single set was forty dollars in Montreal, and thirty in Toronto. There was no more reason then than there is now, why this difference should exist, except we attribute it to the greater, at the time, gall of the eastern dentist. To-day, when the cost of living and practice has doubled, there are dentists who advertise single sets for seven dollars in Montreal, and four dollars in Toronto! At the time of the introduction of this base "base," it was commonly predicted that it meant the degeneracy of the ethical, as well as the financial interests of the profession, in a much greater degree than the use of plastics in operative dentistry. Amalgam, in spite of its practical merits, became a *bete noir*. The "Real Painless" practitioner has come to the fore, not only with immense professions of superior facilities and lower fees, but with deliberate falsehood and hypocrisy reduced to a fine art. The unseemly exhibition of conspicuous all-gold crowns; the mechanical monotony of a great deal of the prosthetic work seen in the mouths of the people we pass in the streets; the low moral tone of the advertisers who are ashamed to use their own names in the public press, and the lower moral tone of those charlatans who glory in their shame under their own names, all point to a down grade tendency. There are many who will always prefer to live