

the clergyman, and others to send them patients on commission? I can point you to a few whose chief art lies in dropping mean criticisms about their superiors, and undermining the reputation of brother-practitioners by slighting remarks whenever they get the opportunity. A medical friend of mine told me that a very indifferent dentist in whose office he was giving ether, endeavored to secure his influence by derogatory remarks about his leading confreres, especially about one confrere. It appeared that he had never had any dental education outside of what he got in the laboratory and office of a very poor practitioner, and that his examination before the Board was "the worst of any candidate who had ever passed." The physician retorted as follows: "Dr. — has had and has kept my family practice for twenty years, and I am more satisfied with him every day. I know he always was and always is a diligent student in his profession. You will permit me to say, that my experience as a medical practitioner enables me to judge what a dentist knows of dentistry, and I don't think you've yet learned the A B C of your profession, in spite of the fact that you pull and fill and make teeth."

Unfortunately everybody will not speak so plainly, and many people easily swallow the falsehoods these men circulate to get patients. I know we are no worse than the physicians and the lawyers. All professions have mean and malicious men in their ranks, and the more ignorant they are, the meaner they are. We cannot be expected to puff up the merits of a confrere, or so to extol him that we will drive our own patients to him, but surely the world is big enough for us all, without resorting to dirty methods of obtaining a practice. And I think the meanest and most dangerous men in the ranks of any profession, are those who assume to be ethical, yet who are not the least bit superior in their methods of soliciting patients, to the distributors of pamphlets from door to door whom they condemn.

[We do not suppose an article like the above will have any more effect on the characters represented, than water on a duck's back. This journal has never had any mercy upon men who degrade the profession. But we have great cause for gratitude, that in most of our cities and towns there exists an undoubted fraternity, such as we find among respectable physicians and barristers. You cannot make a man of inborn manners and malice noble by making him a dentist. He may even enter the ministry, and there exhibit it either by prosyletizing among sister congregations, or by hypocrisy. There is a bright side to humanity. There may not be more saints than sinners, but for every sneak there are a hundred true men. Don't you think so?—ED. D.D.J.]