

A year ago a young beginner brought us a complicated case of irregularity, and asked us to lend him the literature of orthodontia. After a week he returned as bewildered as before, and to make a long story short, we constructed the entire apparatus for the case on the model, and spent a good deal of time instructing him how to insert it and how to proceed. Six months passed, and one day the mother of the patient brought the child to us, asking us to cement on two loose rings, as her dentist was absent from the city. She was not aware that we had suggested and made the entire apparatus, just as it stood. She patronizingly remarked that she supposed we had never seen just such a case; that it had been a rapid success so far, and that her dentist had told her that he had spent much time and thought over the case, and that the structure was an entirely new invention of his own! We left her with this belief. A few weeks ago, the same dentist brought us the models of a very difficult case of protrusion of the superior centrals, and asked for advice. "How did the other case succeed?" we inquired. "Oh! I tried your apparatus for a few weeks," he replied, "and it would not work, and I devised another arrangement after a good deal of thought, and it worked like a charm." "Did you abandon my apparatus?" "Oh! yes; it was only on a week." We may say that he was not aware that the mother and child had visited us, quite accidentally, as it happened, and that we had re-cemented *the only apparatus* which had been used! "Young man," we replied, "you are evidently one of the class who do not hesitate to lie as well as to steal. You lied to your patient, and you now lie to me, and instead of being a bit grateful for my services, for which I did not charge you a cent, you are an unscrupulous calumniator. An honorable man would give even the devil his due; get out!" He proffered apologies and attempted explanations. We would not accept the former nor listen to the latter. The story is not an isolated one. It is only one of many illustrations of the duplicity which the common quack keeps in stock. But it is deplorable to find a case among people who profess to be ethical, and who are as obsequious to one's face as they are treacherous to one's back.