

An essay read before a society often does more good by the discussion it evokes than by the information it may contain.

Many are deterred from writing for their professional journals because they feel that they have nothing new to offer ; while if they would write what they do know, and their papers were criticized in a friendly way, by readers of the journal, the essayist would often profit by it.

These criticisms should not refer to the literary get-up of the papers, for many of us know more than we can properly express.

I have often gained many practical ideas from reading the details of some very commonplace operation. On the other hand, I have often noticed where many of the details of operation described, could be very much simplified.

It would be in such cases where much benefit could be afforded by drawing attention to the paper, and describing the simpler methods.

Kingston, Ont.

R. E. SPARKS.

Fees.

To the Editor of the DOMINION DENTAL JOURNAL :

SIR,—When we were first organized in Ontario we had an Association Fee Bill, if I mistake not. We have still at any rate a pretty-well-understood agreement, which I need not refer to in detail, and when we find a dentist making an upper set on vulcanite for \$10 beside men who demand \$20 or \$25, we have to conclude that one of them is a fool or a rascal. The question which one, and which horn of the dilemma will we place him on, is generally solved by personal knowledge. Last week I had a gentleman from Montreal who came to have me insert a filling put in a week ago, which he brought me in a pill-box. It was a dirty, cheap amalgam. When he asked the dentist his fee, the operator replied, "Are you related to —," mentioning the name of one of the millionaires of Montreal. "Yes, I'm his son, my own dentist is out of town." "Oh! well, I'll only charge you \$5." I understand the regular fee for amalgam in Montreal is \$2, and many insert it for \$1. Evidently that dentist was both a fool and a rascal.

Now, is it contrary to ethics to have a provincial fee bill, and to fine men who sign it, and who are convicted of breaking it? A dentist in my own town freely tells his patients, "Oh! I'm not dependent upon my practice, and therefore I can afford to work cheaply." And yet he has'nt a cent on earth except what he makes in his practice.

Yours,

HURON.

[One of the convictions which maturity has brought to us, is the folly of a fee bill. It was never ethical. Moreover, it is never