

## THE "BARBER-DENTISTS."

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*To the Editor of DOMINION DENTAL JOURNAL:*

SIR,—It seems to me that there is a contest going on in most parts of Canada, as to whether dentistry is to rise to higher dignity as a profession or be degraded to a lower—as a sort of *parvenu* trade. If we make comparisons between the ethics of medicine and dentistry, and the methods to which each resort to better their practice, we shall find that we have to take a very low seat. I am tired of alluding to certain disgraceful means of public advertising to which no respectable dentist resorts, but are we not coming to the position when we will find practitioners actually opening "dental shops" on a big scale, running a lot of chairs like barbers, and placing themselves as much beyond the pale of professional self-respect as would a private family in fairly good circumstances, who preferred to live in a shop, rather than in a private house? The public will judge us by our surroundings. If we select those which imitate the barbers, and depart from those which have always been ethical and decent, we must take the consequences of a loss of public esteem. No doubt the public will still go to their dentists who imitate the barbers, but the public will consider us as no longer entitled to respect as professional men.

Yours, etc. L.D.S.

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*To the Editor of DOMINION DENTAL JOURNAL:*

SIR,—It is a bit of a mystery to me why our college graduates do not write more to the JOURNAL. They have had the advantage of a good preliminary and professional education; they are "debtors to the profession," we like to hear from them, and I think they should be encouraged to use their pens as well as their pluggers. Often it is the case—I know from my own experience—that many defer doing something in this line, until, as you once editorially remarked, they can get time "to do something great." Now, we do not need long sermons, or even long articles. You have had several excellent long articles lately, well written, and a credit to the writers, but we have many quite capable of giving us something useful if they would not wait to get up too much steam. What has become of our friend Dr. Beacock, and where are the many old-timers whose brains must be crowded with ideas that would keep them green in our memories if they would but let us hear from them?

Yours, etc., L. D. S.