

which are asked by the legitimate practitioner. As they say, the competition of the cheap-Jacks in the profession has forced the prices down to a point where they are not over remunerative, and if in addition to this many of those—and there are many in every practitioner's clientage—whose charges the dentist himself regulates according to their circumstances, if these also are taken away from them and attracted to the handsome parlors of the College, they will be in sore straits, indeed. Now, it must be remembered that the men who are most affected by this are not those who are doing the swell practice, but the poorer members of the profession who are striving to uphold the teachings on ethics and dignity of the distinguished leaders in dentistry, and are really the men upon whom the weight of upholding the dignity of the profession falls, because it is a very easy matter for a man to be dignified and highly ethical when he has rich patients and abundance of practice; but give the same man poor patients and few of them, then the hour of his trial comes, and it is in the defence of these men that I chiefly write, and they are the ones who are chiefly affected by the Infirmary.

Many methods have been proposed to relieve this condition of affairs, and one which I think might be satisfactorily worked, as the city is not of such a great size, is somewhat on the principle of the admittance of patients into the General Hospital. The usual procedure for the admittance of patients to the free ward in the Hospital is to have the certificate of a clergyman, which must be countersigned by the Medical Health Officer of the city. Now, if the city were divided up into districts and certain members of the profession appointed by the local association for every district, whose duty it would be to give a certificate to any patient that such person was entitled to free treatment at the Infirmary, and that no person be treated at the Infirmary without the presentation of such a certificate, much of the present difficulty would be overcome. This is thrown out merely as a suggestion; it is for those who are interested to discuss it.

PRACTITIONER.

[N.B.—The columns of the JOURNAL will be open, as always, to all who wish to discuss any questions affecting the profession.—ED.]