

Dr. MURRAY—I am very much pleased indeed with Dr. Woodbury's paper. It is a subject which I have often thought about and when I saw he was to read the paper I looked forward to hearing it. I think in order for us to cope with the other professions it is just as Dr. Woodbury said in his paper, that the literary qualifications of a dentist must be on a par with the literary qualifications of other professions. In the past we have had men come into the profession whose literary qualifications were very poor; the result is that it has been the means of keeping the standard down to a certain extent, therefore in order for us to have this standard raised on a par with other professions we must have educated men, men of culture in the profession, on a par with those in other professions. I think there can be a great amount of good done at the colleges as far as raising the standard of our profession is concerned. If they would proceed in the right way I think that the men whom they sent out would be better. Make their preliminary examinations high and those who go up for examination and fail let them go home again and get qualified, and then before our dental societies we will not have so much trouble about college graduates failing to get through their examinations. It is there it should be taken hold of at first. With a great many colleges all you have to do is sign your name, matriculate, and get through your dental course without any regard whatever to your literary qualifications.

W. H. TOWN, of the S. S. White Dental Mfg. Co.—A little antagonism sometimes does good. For forty-two years I have seen the profession grow up and colleges develop. The mechanical faculties are very rarely found combined with the literary, and I have observed that the men who stand high in literary position and write literary articles, those very men I have known to be in professional hells all their lives in offices, because they have not the manipulative ability to realize the ideals which they so magnificently expressed; but I would not belittle the literary education. I say the mechanical quality is largely in the ascendant to the ordinary dentist and the best men in the profession (and I know lots of them) have little literary qualification. There is Dr. Bliven, of Worcester, who never had any advantages whatever and yet his peer is perhaps not known in the world in certain lines. I know many such instances, and I also know this, that many men with no advantages at all, but confronted with necessity and with original investigation as to what to do, walk into the vast unknown for, gentlemen, knowledge is a very superficial matter, we know exceedingly little and the limits of the unknown are so very wide—that some fellow has happened to stumble into the path from necessity and discovered a gold mine which you literary fellows will write books about afterwards.

Dr. WOODBURY—I don't think it will interfere with anyone's manipulative power to have a proper knowledge of surgery. I