

branches, operative, mechanical and surgical, since the time of Hunter, or even Harris; look at the advancement in the diagnosis and treatment of certain diseases of the teeth once deemed incurable; the progress in difficult operations on the teeth; the application of delicate and complicated apparatus for cleft palate, fractures of the jaws, &c., which once was hardly within the sphere of the dentist at all. Look, too, at the catalogues of our manufacturers; the improvements made in instruments; and were it possible to resuscitate the early dentists and lead them through the dental depots, would they not have good cause to regret that they had been born so soon, or progress had commenced so late.

Not only have invaluable discoveries been made by members of our profession in the natural laws which govern the various phenomena of absorption and reproduction, the physiology and pathology of the teeth and their adjacent structures; but enough has been done in the operative and surgical within the last twenty years to distinguish dentistry as a scientific profession, needing for its faithful practice a high degree of medical and mechanical tact and knowledge.

We have hardly yet begun to realize the personal, professional and public advantages accruing from the improved state of affairs in the Canadian profession. Personally, every dentist who chooses to respect himself, holds a position in society as a professional man,—a position he could not legally claim and which was not generally recognized before the passage of our Act of Incorporation. The privileges granted to physicians with respect to their accounts have been extended to us, while before the passage of the Act, we had to swear to our work and cost of material, like a mason or plumber. Before the passage of the Act we had no protection from the raids of nomadic empyrics: to-day they are completely shut out. We have also this organization, and other educational advantages, which reflect credit on the profession, and benefit every individual who chooses to avail himself of their inducements. Dentistry is no longer regarded as a trade, and education is no more confined to the laboratory. The character of the profession is raised by the better education of students, the existence of an examining board, and a license to spur ambition and stimulate study. By compelling our members not to take students for less than three years, the manufacture of dentists in as many months has been stopped, and the education in the office is more thorough.

The influence of these societies is also irresistible, centralizing professional experience and action, dissipating errors of practice, blending sympathies, and stimulating to earnest study, to observation and experiment. Pre-eminent above most direct influences is that of association,