

it grapples with, relieves and cures many of the most stubborn and fatal conditions. Medicine has taken several hundred years to advance from the barber's pole to its present exalted position. But what shall we say of dentistry?

Its cradle was the blacksmith's shop, and the village cobbler's bench. In less than a century it has grown until it embraces within its domain a chemistry, a materia medica, a metallurgy, a pathology, a bacteriology, an anatomy—a combination of the physician, metallurgist and mechanic. It requires the training of the judgment, the memory, the eye and the hand. It is the connecting link between the philosopher and artisan.

Dentistry requires a greater versatility than does any other profession. No one man ever becomes equally expert in all of its branches, and in like manner few men fail in each and every one of its branches. This last consideration has led some people to suppose that dentistry is an easy profession to practise. Nothing could be more removed from the truth.

The dentist who can, in succession, treat an abscess, extract under chloroform, put in a gold filling, make a gold crown or a plate, and set up a regulating appliance, has been in turn a physician, surgeon, mechanic, moulder, metallurgist, chemist, and engineer.

Is he not entitled to a recognition of his proficiency?

The title "doctor" signifies the attainment of a certain knowledge in some direction. Surely the dentist is as fully entitled to it as are the theologian, the philosopher, the physician, and the musician.

Yours very truly,

MARK G. MCILHINNEY, D.D.S.

Ottawa, March 20th, 1894.

Unlicensed Practitioners.

To the Editor of the DOMINION DENTAL JOURNAL:

DEAR SIR,—A short time ago I received from our friend and professional brother, Dr. Hanna, of Kemptville, Ont., a circular asking for opinions as to how to enforce the law with reference to unlicensed practitioners.

Let me offer my suggestions through your columns, and they will reach Dr. Hanna as well as others.

The difficulty of securing evidence to convict, as well as a magistrate to try any case, is incident to the attempted enforcement of any unpopular law.

The Act in question is supposed to exist for the protection of the public, while it really protects the unlicensed practitioner more than it does any one else.