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THE PRACTICAL VALUE OF CHEMISTRY IN DENTISTRY.*

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MR. PRESIDENT,—It was not without certain feelings of reluctance that a few weeks ago I consented to write a paper for this joint meeting of the Dental Societies, caused by consciousness of my own inability to treat my topic in a comprehensive and scientific manner, as well as by a knowledge that lack of idle time would render it difficult for me to give any subject proper consideration.

Events which have transpired during the last two or three years, as well as certain experiences which it has been my lot to encounter as a member of an examining board, have been the means of firmly impressing upon my mind that certain of the subjects found on the recognized "list of studies" of our colleges do not apparently receive that attention and consideration at the hands of the teachers, and consequently of the pupils, which they would seem to merit.

Probably if a class of matriculants were given the curriculum of studies required to be taught by a Dental College, and asked to indicate which to them appeared as of the most and which of least importance, whatever might be their opinion as to the former, there can hardly be any doubt that Chemistry would almost invariably be named as the latter.

For a study so fundamental to almost every branch of dental science, to me it would appear that too great a prominence could

* Read before the Maritime Dental Association, September, 1898.