

victims of some form of imposture. There is a glamor about it, even with the clearest evidence of fraud. The simulation of sincerity and the boldness of the claims, and the pretence of philanthropy, often pass current in the very face of truth. But there can be no more shameful fraud than that which is practised upon the credulity of the sick and suffering, no imposture which more merits restraint by the strong arm of the law, than the sharp practice of the medical and dental humbug.

As a profession we are heavily handicapped by reason of the limitations of our field of action, and by the fact that even the large majority of medical men do not even theoretically appreciate the inseparable relationship between the diseases of the teeth and those of other organs, and are not frequently enough disposed to send such patients to the dentist. We are handicapped by the public ignorance, which extends superstitious veneration to the consequences and treatment of the simplest pathological case in the practice of medicine, and which regards extraction as the sure remedy for all the ills to which the teeth are heir. The scientific treatment, sometimes prolonged, and occasionally a failure, is discredited by the quack, who glories in his humbug, and who profits by his shame. Professionally, many men are discouraged by the ignorant chase for cheapness, and the readiness of so many to submit their mouths, in a way they would not entrust the care of their cattle, to the lowest bidder. It has become one of the modern additions to a new form of insanity. It is impossible to speak dispassionately in this connection. A mortality of over four thousand in this city was not enough to eradicate the dread of small-pox. The periodical visits for the last twenty-five years of unknown medical and dental humbugs, have not been sufficient to open the eyes of the public to the reasons for occasional success that is blazoned abroad, and the scores of failures, which are discreetly concealed. Even such precious organs as the eyes, with their special relationship to dental affections, were for a long time in Montreal confided to the care of those who were not specialists, and are sometimes trifled with to-day by mechanics, whose experience cannot be reliable. But the teeth—heaven help them! Better lose the teeth than lose your hair, say many, for you can easier conceal the loss of the former with a cheap artificial set than you can hide the loss of the latter with a wig. Nature meant the first set of teeth to do service for seven years; but many people think it no wrong to the child to let them decay, and to let the poor youngsters suffer their loss. A quaint jumble of gross credulity and misty tradition hangs about the popular idea of the functions. The value of the teeth, why they may decay in health as well as during illness; why they are so commonly the cause of diseases of the nervous system, the alimentary canal, the