

no doubt in my mind that cataphoresis is destined to work a revolution in the practice of dentistry, and I am sure we will all welcome any discovery which will make the operations we perform comfortable to our patients as well as to ourselves.

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### CATAPHORESIS,\*

By DR. CYRUS A. ALLEN, Buffalo.

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In the hurry and push of a daily practice, large as I know we all possess, it is difficult to introduce radical changes in methods. This I believe to be particularly true when it comes to the acceptance or even consideration of methods savoring of the "painless" character. However, the busy man must not forget that science progresses and must be considered, and that all who would "be in at the finish" must conform themselves to its changing conditions. This declaration should not be construed in any manner as urging the endorsement of every new claimant. I think you will agree with me that even in our noble profession there are often pretensions to truth and fact which experience never can verify. However, failure along lines of declared truth should not close our eyes to the possibilities of advancement.

Ever since my earliest recollections I have been accustomed to the atmosphere of dental operations, and I must confess, with all courtesy to my good father, who was a pioneer in our art, and who was always *inter primos* in his life-work, that those early memories were not of the nature to make a boy respect his father. However, as time has gone on, we realize that he was even of the first, and that the professional crudities then extant were largely responsible for the degree of respect in which our art was held in that early day.

The general public has so loved the results of our labors, no matter by what discomforts received, that to-day we have in America alone about 25,000 dentists, with more to follow, judging from the liberal inducements offered by colleges to possible students in this field. But with advances made in other scientific and professional fields in recent years there has come a popular demand for "painless dentistry," which to most of us is a synonym for quackery—something alluring to the public. For the benefit of humanity and the good name of our profession, I would that the adjective "painless" had been omitted from our language. However, its existence and disgraceful application may have been in

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