

with a saw, that which was intended should be done with an augur." Applying this remark to the celebrated philosopher's own life, and to every branch of science and art, we see its palpable error; and it may serve as a fit text, for us herein, to say a word or two on the subject of dental instruments.

Our manual dexterity, with our various appliances, is so much oftener called into service than our simple advice, that there is no profession which has made greater advances in the improvement of its instruments and appliances, than that of dentistry. In ordinary medical life, as it is on this continent, where surgery is not as much a specialty of certain practitioners as it is in Europe, ten out of twelve physicians have a greater proportion of strictly medicinal and therapeutical cases in their every day practice, than of surgical operations; and the improvement in surgical appliances bears no comparison to the ever increasing stock for the *dental* surgery and laboratory. Without instruments the occupation of the dentist is gone.

Doubtless the misery of poor instruments has often come home to many a conscientious dentist, who has endeavoured to make fine fillings with badly adapted pluggers; whose stock of excavators has been limited to the old orthodox straights, and rights and lefts; whose key of Garangeot—dread fracturer of alveoli and maxillary—was the most frequent appliance for extracting. The improvements in the various dental instruments within the memory of comparatively young practitioners, is perhaps the best testimony to the live spirit of progress in our profession, and the enterprise of the manufacturers. The rough paths over which our predecessors travelled have been smoothened for the present generation of dentists, and by means of better instruments, labor has been relieved of much of its severity, and the average class of operations have been much facilitated. A look over S. S. White's catalogue—and still better treat, a walk through his depot—will convince the most sceptical that dentistry is a real *live* profession; and that the ways and means of working are much improved by the co-operation of the manufacturer with the operator.

It stands to reason, that though some few men may use an augur where they should have a saw, the very large majority of us are too mediocre or too impatient to climb hills, when we can get all we want in the valley. Why use old and tedious methods, when new ones are much superior in every respect? Where is the sense in sticking to an old instrument and an old principle in the present advancing