

But a college training is essential ; and yet it is but fair that examinations should be confined to the subjects taught in the schools, otherwise of what use are they practically in helping the student towards his license ? If dental examinations are to enter the realms of the most abstruse and abstract problems in medicine and surgery ; if a student is expected to " pass " on subjects which the law of the land prohibits him from handling ; if he is forced out of the ranks of practical dentistry because he does not know phosphorous necrosis from exanthematous necrosis, the microscopy of myxoma from that of carcinoma, and yet give proof that he is well up in theoretical and practical dentistry, an injustice is done. The by-laws distinctly state that the pathology, therapeutics and materia medica shall be "*dental*," and any examination outside of that is as illegal as it is unfair. Any L.D.S. not holding a medical and surgical degree who attempted to treat or operate upon cases not embraced within the recognized and legitimate functions of " dentistry " would expose himself to prosecution.

One of our correspondents, in a Province where there is no college, writes us that he was referred back in his final examination for a license to practice dentistry because he had failed to answer the following questions :

" What is the molecular weight of nitrate of potash ? "

" Describe ichthyosis linguæ. "

" How would *you* treat osteo-sarcoma of the lower jaw ? "

" Describe myeloid tumor of the body of inferior maxillary bone. "

We have been repeatedly asked to publish the questions at examinations, as is the custom in England and the United States, and we propose in future to do so. The object of examinations is not so much to discover what the candidate does not know, as to find out if he knows enough to be let loose upon the public as a dentist.

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At the opening session of the Department on Therapeutics and Materia Medica of the World's Dental Congress, the chairman, Dr. Gorgas, took exception to the common fashion, among ethical members, of decrying the investigation of all remedies which come before the profession as advertised nostrums. " I do not agree," said he, " with those who oppose discussing in a dental congress the effects of the various drugs which have, within a comparatively brief period, been brought to the notice of the dental profession in the form of popular nostrums for obtunding the sensibility of the dental organs, and for which is claimed entire immunity to pain and absolute safety, giving as a reason that such investigation may prove an advertising method, or at least as such. On the other hand, I believe it is our duty to make ourselves acquainted with the source, medical properties, action and therapeutic uses of all agents which are capable of exciting curative or toxic effects, according to their combination, quantity applied, or method of application. "