

for facts to verify his statements. To those of us who enjoy an established practice, the facts of overcrowding are perhaps not so apparent or appealing, unless we also possess special facilities for observation. The intensely selfish may measure every opinion by their own environment. They see no particular harm in circumstances which do not threaten their own interests. They can afford to be blind to those of their less fortunate *confrères*. The perfectly honest, too, may express opinions without full knowledge of the facts. Differences of opinion must, therefore, exist.

We are prepared to admit that dentistry would not be "overcrowded" to such an extent were the public and the medical profession fully educated on the importance of preserving the natural teeth. The profession has devised and endeavored to carry out various schemes to reach the public, but we are met by the more specious appeals in the press by the advertising fraternity. The public will not regard the salvation of the human teeth, so easily replaced, as of the same importance as other organs of the body. A man can live, and move, and have his being if he loses every tooth in his head. He is more functionally handicapped if he loses an eye. Pain in the teeth is cured by extraction. We cannot impart the enthusiasm of our conservative beliefs to the public. We have, too, no inconsiderable number of practitioners who cannot get the public to value or pay for conservative dentistry, and who publicly educate their victims to get artificial substitutes. It needs no genius or arithmetical knowledge to foresee the results. Ethical men do little or nothing to counteract this, and if they do they may be accused of collateral advertising. The public press of Canada, as everywhere else, confines its influence to the men who give it the most advertising. It will need more than a miracle to revolutionize this state of affairs, and we do not suppose our aspiring students and practitioners have entered the profession for philanthropic or miracle-performing objects. We have not, as a profession, even got the ethical restraints upon licentiates which law and medicine enjoy. We cannot even interfere with the liberty of medical men, many of whom, especially in the country districts, extract by the bushel, teeth which should and could be saved. Moreover, dentistry is not alone in the complaint of being overcrowded. Legislative measures have been suggested to meet