

They skip and jump from village to village, and farm to farm, without a higher thought or ambition than to bleed the farmers, and it is curious that the more these people lie, the better they seem, for the time being, to succeed. The country districts need well-educated dentists as much as the cities, and almost everywhere there are such qualified men. But if they are expected to remain there, they must have the confidence and intelligent support of their communities. The dentists form a very important addition to the means of preventing and treating several of the most painful and extensive diseases of the age. There is no other disease so prevalent in every country as decay of the teeth. The press of the provinces owe a duty to their readers to arouse interest in this matter.

We may refer in this place to the injustice the public in country places suffer from the periodical raids of travelling quacks, who look upon farmers and village residents as easy subjects for humbug. The mischief these tramps do, under pretence of cheapness, and of possessing wonderful and exclusive remedies, is well known to respectable dentists. But imposture must have its victims in the country as well as in the city, and if the cheap adventurers cannot find sufficient fools in the cities to keep them going, they will endeavor to drum them up in the rural districts. We feel it our duty to *ask the co-operation of the press* and the leading men of these districts, in protecting the people from one of the most bare-faced humbugs of modern times—the “Cheap Jack” in Dentistry.

---

### STUDENTS' MISTAKES.

In presence of students doing their best in a written or oral examination, one is frequently struck with the superficial knowledge they possess of theory, while, probably, having in some measure distinguished themselves in practical work. Gold fillings and gold bridges are exhibited, very much to their credit, showing in many instances ingenuity and skill. It is apparent that what is essentially mechanical is easier of apprehension, as well as of execution, and that the moment pathological conditions arise, involving more knowledge of symptomatology, physical signs, etc., the most of students get into deep water and the empirical treatment to which we are all frequently forced to resort, governs them from start to finish. To an examiner, who in spite of an unswerving determination to do justice, though the heavens should fall, yet who has common sympathy, this condition is pitiful. To witness the mental struggle to explain some of the simplest questions in theory; the frequent ignorance of the fundamental principles without which practice is nothing, but as purely mechanical as laying