

"protest" as a boomerang, but to draw it mild, we would kindly offer the warning, that in jumping to a conclusion our correspondents may find they have committed a sort of suicide.

ONE PHASE OF MALPRACTICE.

We should like a few test cases submitted to the courts in the several Provinces of the Dominion to discover whether or not the greater part of the practice of the cheap Jacks is not wilful and ignorant malpractice, subjecting the practitioners thereof to heavy fines for damages, and the cancellation of their license.

What is the recognized first duty of the dentist, to save or destroy? There could hardly be a judicial or jury dispute as to the functional value of human teeth in comparison with artificial, and the duty incumbent upon licensed dentists to preserve the former. The surgeon who would amputate a finger on account of a wart, or a toe on account of a corn, would be no more censurable, morally and legally, than the miserable beggars who tempt the uneducated to have teeth extracted which could and should be preserved. The average untaught or unthinking patient, who finds that it will cost as much to have one or two of several carious teeth filled, as it will cost to have them all extracted, and an artificial set inserted, has a provokingly tempting inducement put before him to choose the latter. That, of course, is the chief business of the cheap Jack; and by slovenly work, cheap materials, and the employment of unlicensed and underpaid hirelings to do the laboratory labor, the quack, for he is nothing less, though he may be something more, in the nature of a first-class rascal, finds a daily profit in the accumulation of large orders for his rubbish.

Some of our friends differed from the opinion of Dr. C. N. Johnson at the last meeting of the Ontario Dental Society, that within the range of his experience he had seen more artificial teeth, according to population, worn in Ontario than in any other place he had ever visited. If the doctor had had the same opportunity in the Province of Quebec, especially in Montreal, he would have hardly found words to express his horror. The fact is not at all difficult of solution. We are cursed in Ontario and Quebec with more dental *abattoirs*, according to population, than can be perhaps found anywhere else in the world, and we make this statement advisedly. By shameful advertisements, by the exhibition in show cases—the latter only in Quebec—by the offer of "free and painless extraction," sets of teeth from three to five and ten dollars, the public has been educated in the press. From these alluring clap-traps a large part of the public get the only know-