

years after he began practice—he was on a committee which was organized to present the claims of the dentists to Parliament, which in 1862 had resulted in the affiliation of dentistry to the College of Surgeons, the organization of various societies, etc. At that period, however, there had been no compulsory education or registration. Every man was a law unto himself, none daring to dictate to the veriest quack who chose to declare himself a dentist, or to make the vilest impostor afraid. It was not until 1878—ten years after the passage of the Act in Ontario—that the Dentists' Act became law. Sir John was the founder of the British Dental Association: the thinker and the worker in the best interests of his profession, and in the protection of the public. The honor of F.R.S., F.R.C.S., were tributes to his scientific researches, and in 1886 he was honored by knighthood in recognition of the eminent services, scientific, social and political, which he had rendered to his profession, and which brought about, chiefly through his untiring and unselfish work, the position occupied by dentistry in Britain to-day. The life of Sir John Tomes, if written by his son, or by some one as able and familiar with his career, would be a biographical stimulus to every student, and a literary treasure to every dentist in every land.

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### The Rush into Dentistry.

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The Province of Quebec has never been behind the other provinces in its supply of well-qualified dentists. Montreal was the professional home of Spooner, of W. H. Elliott, and others among the fathers of our craft. There are more well-qualified men in its ranks to-day than ever before, and while there are probably twice too many dentists for the demands of the population, there are more registered students than practitioners, and still they come. Dentistry is evidently getting the start of the priesthood. Once upon a time, every inhabitant wanted one of his sons to be a priest; now he wants several of them to be "doctors"; and as our provincial law protects all physicians in the Province in practising dentistry, providing that they do not publicly announce themselves as "dentists," a great deal of dentistry is done by a certain class of physicians which should be done by dentists. Moreover, the French population of our rural districts do not want, or do not demand much else but extraction, and this the physicians will do at ten cents a tooth! For some reason or other, even the French