

reasons for fault-finding lie at their own doors. The social and professional condition of a profession is not shaped to order by editors alone. Every member has a personal share, and merits either credit or discredit. Upon which horn of the dilemma do you sit?

EXAMINATIONS IN BRIDGE WORK.

A very unfair prominence and pre-eminence is given to practical crown and bridge work in examinations. The impostors who are prepared to crown and bridge roots and gaps of all sorts and conditions of disease and diagnostic uncertainty, are simply thieves. If the public choose to be swindled by such practice, it is no reason why honest men should lose their wits and get excited. A few failures will do a man irreparable harm. Our object, however, at present, is not to discuss the subject, but mainly to suggest, that too much time and practice on this branch is exacted from students going forward for their license. It would be wiser to emphasize the limitations of this department, and to discover by examination whether or not the candidate is a mere mechanic, who is prepared to tinker every root, however diseased beyond repair it may be, or whether he is intelligent and honest enough to know irreparable pathological conditions, which should lead him to avoid such practice. To know where and when not to use crown or bridge work, is as essential as to know how to do it.

Post-Card Dots.

8. Can you tell me anything about a custom in Japan of blackening the teeth? Is it a sign of mourning?

Quite the reverse. It is a sign of matrimony. By means of a corrosive preparation the teeth of the betrothed damsel are made as black as ink, and they retain their dark color during the whole lifetime of their owner, who, whenever she smiles, betrays to observers that she is married. Even when she is a widow no attempt is made to remove the matrimonial brand. I have just been informed by a Japanese friend that the custom is becoming obsolete.

9. What can I do with a lot of the old porcelain pivot teeth I have on hand? Wooden pivots were used for them.

You can roughen metal posts and vulcanize them into the holes or fuse them in with porcelain. The metal of an ordinary "safety-pin" is just as good for the purpose of a post as gold platina.