

him is an important question at the present time. His numbers are becoming formidable and are viewed with alarm by the pessimistic practitioner, as he sees his practice jeopardized by the wholesale manufacture of new dentists out of all proportion to the increase of population. He sees the profession degraded to the level of a trade, by the competition which numbers afford.

I was recently in receipt of an anonymous letter, asking me to take advantage of my position as an examiner to prevent the graduation of so many candidates. I have heard that even the new Dental College building is viewed with suspicion by some, as being an additional attraction for young men to enter the dental profession in Ontario. Others claim that the better educated the man the better the interests affected by him, and welcome every facility for advancing that education. But it is argued we have had a School of Dentistry in Ontario for over twenty years, and yet we have among those graduates some of the most magnificent quacks that ever disgraced a profession. That does not prove that the state of affairs might not have been much worse had not the school and legal regulation of the profession existed. Who among us would favor abandoning the School of Dentistry and repealing the laws regulating the requirements for practising our profession?

There are three classes of men—those who are gentlemen in spite of conditions and environment; those who are not naturally gentlemen, but who may be made so by education and surroundings, and those who could not be gentlemen under any circumstances. A few of the latter get into all the professions—not more into dentistry than into the others.

As the students of to-day will be the preceptors of a few years hence, it is desirable that as few as possible of this class shall gain entrance into the ranks of dental students. Public safety demands that the man who presumes to operate upon the human body, shall have a knowledge of the part he undertakes to operate upon. How he shall best acquire that knowledge is a matter of vital importance to man himself and the public at large. It may be done by private tuition, by college education, or by both. The great desire to enter the professions has made a great demand for colleges where the professions may be taught. The dental profession has kept well apace with the others in numbers of candidates. So great has been the demand for dental colleges in the Republic to the south of us, that many charters have been obtained by private individuals as investments for capital. To such an extent has this prevailed that few large cities have no dental college, and many have two or three each. As the dividends upon the capital invested in those institutions depend upon the number of students attending, there is a danger of the interests of