

drugs, whether generally or topically applied, belongs to pathological practice. In the treatment of alveolar abscess, for instance, operative dentistry has very little part, its practice being confined to that which is mechanical, or that which is done with instruments. I believe that in the past we have not sufficiently distinguished between the two. A sharp line of demarkation should be drawn between that which is mechanical and that which is therapeutical.

It will be seen that I have not attempted to assign any place to the practical part of dentistry. My subject was the teaching of anatomy, but I have thought it not inappropriate to suggest some thought concerning other didactic studies.

Let me repeat that I have only considered the matter tentatively, and realize as fully as any of you that there is room for much consideration and extended discussion before the various studies in our curriculum shall each have been definitely assigned its appropriate place.

WHERE IGNORANCE WAS NOT BLISS.

By MALCOLM W. SPARROW, L.D.S., Toronto.

While reading Dr. Martin's article on "Popular Dental Education," in the May number of your valuable journal, I was convinced of the truth there is in his reference to the ignorance of medical men—not all—who pretend—or shall I say, presume—to diagnose troubles which pertain strictly to the science of dentistry. Not only this, but the readiness with which some M.D.'s undertake the treatment of cases that are entirely out of their sphere—such as the extracting of troublesome teeth, the treatment of alveolar abscesses, *et cetera*, or by telling their patients hobgoblin stories about some maxillary trouble or another, which they do not themselves understand, nor have been taught to understand, thereby rendering it almost impossible for a dentist to remove from the patient's mind the fallacy of the M.D.'s diagnosis—is indeed provoking.

It seems to me that a medical man, without the degree of L.D.S. or D.D.S., ought not to prescribe for a patient suffering from derangement of the masticating organs—unless for temporary relief—any more than a dentist, without the degree of M.D., should prescribe for a patient suffering from a derangement of the digestive organs. It is no more than right that we should be fair with one another at all times. Some medical men, however, will grab at anything which promises a fee, and if the patient suffers through their ignorance of dental science, *messieurs les docteurs* try to justify