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## Original Communications

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### ANOMALIES IN DENTISTRY.\*

By G. S. MARTIN, D.D.S., L.D.S., Toronto Junction.

When you have heard this paper you may decide that, like Pompey's pillar, it is something of a misnomer. I use the word "anomaly" in its ordinary dictionary sense, signifying a deviation from type or being contrary to analogy. For example, we see certain lines of conduct expected of professional men, and as dentistry is by common consent designated a profession by analogy, we look for the ear marks of professional ethics among its members, and failing this we find an anomaly.

That there are anomalies in dentistry is perhaps not very patent at first glance, but I think that on a more careful scanning of the field we occupy there is much of the irregular that will attract our attention. Perhaps none more loudly make the claim of being professional than those who are daily bringing into the profession that which in the eyes of the educated laity detracts from the force of the contention.

Certain things are expected of a professional man that are not looked for among tradesmen. A medical man, for example, is expected to give his patient such advice as will prevent sickness or the necessity of further treatment, seeking the highest good of his patient, without regarding for one moment his own interests. The physician who would be guilty of treating (or maltreating) his patient so as to prolong the illness and thus increase his bill

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\* Read before the Toronto Dental Society.