

Sometimes they hang around the outskirts of a society, and absorb all the benefit they can without the slightest effort to yield anything in return. I have all sympathy for a man who lacks in ability, and who avoids a prominent place in society work from conviction of his incapacity, but these men are not of that stamp. They assume superiority over the common herd, and consider it not worth their while to fraternize with their fellows. They are not only derelict in their duty to the profession, but they form a dangerous example for young men to point to and imitate.

If dentistry in Canada is ever to advance to a position equal to that of the profession in the United States, there must be a unity of endeavor all along the line, and the present petty spites and jealousies must be suppressed. Canadian dentists have the ability to advance, but they lack the liberality and true professional spirit of progressive men.

It may not do any good to tell them so, but somehow there is a certain form of satisfaction in it, and I trust the article will not prove altogether faultless.

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### Dental Caries.\*

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There are three divisions of micro-organisms in the production of dental caries. The first transforms starch and unfermentable sugar into fermentable sugar; the second changes this sugar into lactic acid; the third produces a kind of digestive fermentation. Now, if the normal secretions of the mouth are not able to counteract the effect of these acid producers, in some part of the oral cavity where food or other matter may find a lodgment, then decalcification, or breaking down of the enamel will begin; and when once the way is opened to the dentine beneath, and the micro-organisms have gained an entrance into the tubuli, the rapid breaking down of the lime salts of the tooth goes on till the tooth is beyond redemption, if the ravages are not arrested by the hand of the dentist. Dr. Ormiston says, that "bacteria do not reach the tubuli until decalcification has occurred in the enamel. Lactic acid fermentation very soon takes place in saccharine or

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