

calmly act and show that something good can come out of Nazareth.

Every journal bears upon its pages the desire of men to flee to a practice that will bring universal good results. Let us ask, where are our failures? Are they in men or things or materials? Are they in false education? Is it that new difficulties arise to baffle every past partially-successful effort? Have we really been successful in anything we have done to insure us in following the same old cause? The cry is for new light and new methods. If the world knew how few teeth are saved by us for any number of years they would not spend time, health and money, but give up to the juggernaut of destruction, and extraction would be the rule, even with the wealthier classes. The poor and medium classes have had to give up their teeth in early life because of failure upon failure of even the best men. Then it is a fact, dentistry of the present hour is not near the goal of perfection in practice we long for. Why is it? Is there any relief? When shall we commence in our declaration of failure?

THE PRIME NECESSITY.

First. Men. With all the vaunted advantages of colleges everywhere, how few who enter their sacred precincts are fitted by nature, general education, special talent, surroundings, or by long family precedents! Could we but be as true to principles and bold to assert as was Plato when he had inscribed over the garden-gate to his studio, "Let none enter here who know not geometry," we would then have some hope for the future.

Anyone can be taught to fill a cavity with the instruments and material at our disposal, but when to do it and how it should be shaped to insure its future usefulness is quite another consideration. We must not teach men that our art is solely to allow teeth to decay and fill our coffers from Nature's weakness. Are you prepared to-night to lay down your life as the missionary, and for the good of humanity attempt to save a tooth in its purity whether fortune in gold favor you or not?

Are you ready to ignore self and be the benefactors of your race, and adopt a system that promises to save more teeth, more pulps, give greater beauty, and more usefulness? If not, then step aside.

Medical men can well ask for "preventive medicine," for every honest M.D. soon learns to give less and less medicine, and rely not only on Nature, but in knowing the laws of hygiene, even if he be dethroned for his empiricism.

We, as dentists, have an entirely different field, for we have millions coming to us where no law of prevention can be applied. We can only save and restore the lost structure by our cunning and art.

With the rising generation, we can do, if we have a system to