

the banquet was one of the most enjoyable of the Association I have attended. A lot of solid, practical work was done, but the memory of real hospitality is, as you will agree with me from your own experience, something that one can never forget.

### THE PAST AND THE PRESENT.

*To the Editor of DOMINION DENTAL JOURNAL:*

SIR,—In discussing the best way to eradicate quackery in practice and in advertising, I am not in harmony with some of your views, because in rebuking the present violators of the code of ethics, your rebuke must logically go back to the former acts of men who are among our most worthy. I remember the day when show-cases were so common that they were exhibited at Provincial exhibitions, and the best dentists competed for public prizes for the best display of mechanical work! That was not more than thirty years ago. I was glad, indeed, to see the last of that very unprofessional custom. Have we not to recognize the fact, that the times are changed for us as well as for everything else where men have to get a living, and that with the increase of population, and the accession to our number of many more dentists, we must expect the quack advertiser to thrive upon the credulity of the public. The quack advertisements in dentistry are only on a par with those in medicine. With all our faults, we have never in our history had one criminal in our ranks. Medicine and law cannot say as much in Canada. Yours ———

[Our correspondent is illogical. Dentists who used show-cases, etc., thirty or forty years ago violated no code, because there was neither an organized profession, nor a code to violate. We doubt if the sin of Cain was as great a sin as that of ———. The Ten Commandments made penal certain actions which common law had left uncondemned. When we obtained from the Legislature professional distinction and privileges, it would have been as inconsistent as absurd to adhere to trade methods. We admit the correctness of the parallel between quack medical and dental advertisements, but as reputable medical societies ostracize from their privileges men who resort to these means of booming practice, so reputable dental societies should do the same. We do not propose to hang, draw and quarter these advertisers, or worry them in any other way than by protecting the public from their imposture. By and by such quacks will find it does not pay to lie. Even for them honesty will some day be found to be the best policy. That they would be influenced by the fact that it is the best principle we venture to doubt. If truth can be made to pay better than lying, they will tell the truth, even if it makes them ill to affect such an uncommon act of moral heroism.—ED. D.D.J.]