

Examinations.

Examinations, as a rule, are always formidable to the best prepared, because "a child can ask questions a wise man cannot answer." There is a pretty general conviction that dental examinations, at least, should have a more thoroughly practical character, and that a good deal of the time occupied in the oral and written work should be devoted to the clinical. However, there are necessarily two sides to the question, as anyone knows who has had extensive experience as an examiner. But there is one phase of the subject which has been brought to our minds by a rather curious coincidence.

We have received from three of our Provinces lists of questions asked dental students, and complaints that they are "mostly inapplicable and unfair, some of them entirely questions of controversy which no text-book has satisfactorily settled, and a number of them altogether out of the line of study or opportunities afforded by college training, and evidently picked out of the *fourth-year* examinations in medical colleges, or supplied by medical or surgical experts, and not possible to come from the examiners' own knowledge or experience." We give this extract just as it was sent to us.

It is natural that students should expect examinations to be confined to the course and limits of study prescribed by the Board before which they must appear. For instance, where the by-laws declare, when a student was indentured, that he must take *one* course of lectures at a medical university on certain medical subjects, it does not seem fair that the examination shall be at all in the direction of the second-year subjects, to which the student has never listened. In some of the Provinces the primary examinations are defined as "*Dental Anatomy, Dental Physiology, Dental Chemistry.*" Yet in none of the medical universities are these specifically taught, and whatever the unfortunate student learns of the purely dental aspect of these questions he has to gather from his own reading of text-books unknown to the medical universities. If a dental college succeeds in supplementing these medical lectures by a special dental course, this objection, of course, does not stand. But if it does not, it is an objection that should be fairly considered.

In some of the Provinces a large part of dental education is self-gotten; the students are self-taught, unless they go out of the Province to be instructed. The office and laboratory training is invaluable—if the student enters an office of a licentiate who is competent or willing to direct him in his studies. Many of our very best men possess no dental college qualification whatever, and those who do are the readiest to admit, that the indentureship system based upon that of England, and making obligatory certain primary courses in a medical university, had very good results.