

manufacturers have labored to produce them by processes of artificial oxidation, neither party knowing that the resulting amalgam was caused to shrink. "It is evident," says Dr. Black, in conclusion, "from the results of these tests that changes must be made in the commercial handling of this material."

Correspondence.

REPLY TO "THE REASON WHY."

To the Editor of DOMINION DENTAL JOURNAL:

SIR,—Replying to "A. B.'s" questions under the heading "The Reason Why" in last month's JOURNAL, allow me to answer them generally by ascribing what are, in my opinion, some of the causes of our present low status among the professions.

I consider the chief cause is the lack of that ideal in its sphere of work which a profession should have. Where the majority of the members of a profession have a high estimate of the importance of their calling, they are not very apt to do things which we would say are contrary to good ethics; and let me say here, I consider it just as much a breach of such ethics to do that which would deprive one's self of his due, as to cast aspersions on others of our brethren. Let me illustrate: The majority of us in my district virtually *guarantee* to fit satisfactorily those who come to have lost dental organs replaced by a plate. We may not say a word about such guarantee, but we willingly make over a denture two or three times for the same fee, which is equivalent to guaranteeing it in the first instance. Now, is this custom consistent with the practice of any profession? Do you hear of medical men giving attendance or medicine free after having discovered a mistake in their original diagnosis? Are we responsible for the fact that dentures can be more readily adapted to one mouth than to another? After being certificated from a power under government charter, should we be expected to do *anything* for *nothing*? I am convinced, in my own mind, that nothing short of the general adoption of a code of ethics consistent with the dignity of a profession will make a marked improvement in the status of dentistry.

Another cause, perhaps, is the inferiority of much of the dental work done in the past. Emerson says that "to do a thing well is to create a demand for that work."

The fact of some of us being too ready to listen to unfavorable comments on our brethren by patients is also, no doubt, a cause of