

as reliable as the oculist who would pretend that he can restore the functions of the human organs by glass substitutes. We have opticians dabbling in the treatment of eyes, quite as ignorant of their diseases as the quack dentist is of the pathology of the teeth. Mr. Pedley's work should make us better teachers to our patients. It is a valuable text-book for schools. We know none better. The school teacher could easily master the subjects therein, and do good service to his pupils.

---

*Cosmos and Evolution.* By W. C. BARRETT, M.D., D.D.S. A lecture delivered before the students of the Chicago College of Dental Surgery, Feb. 20, 1899. Reprinted from *Dental Review*.

Dr. Barrett is a big man mentally, as he is physically. He is a refreshingly clear writer even on obscure subjects. As a new departure in the contributions of the doctor, this brochure should be welcomed, even if some readers disagree with its premises and conclusions.

---

*A Review of Recent Legal Decisions Affecting Physicians, Dentists, Druggists, and the Public Health.* Together with a Brief for the prosecution of unlicensed practitioners, etc. By W. A. PURRINGTON, Counsel of the Dental Society of the State of New York and Lecturer on Medical and Dental Jurisprudence in the New York College of Dentistry. New York: E. B. Treat & Co., 241 West 23rd Street. 1899. 105 pages.

This is a work which has been very much needed, and one which will be deeply interesting to practitioners in Canada. In another place in this issue we take the liberty of reproducing a chapter on dentistry as a specialty of medicine. The author emphasizes this as a natural connection, and it must enforce upon the mind of the reader not only the necessity of medical education, but the legal protection to the practitioner and the public which this affiliation affords. It is important that dentists who appear before our legislatures and our courts shall know, not only the provincial laws, but something of legal decisions and precedents which have occurred elsewhere. We have been met by prominent legislators with the sneer that dentistry is only a trade, and that as such we had no claim to the exemptions and privileges bestowed upon a profession. In fact, there have been occasions where the dental practitioner was ranked with the saloon-keeper. The arguments in rebuttal of the statement that dentistry is only a handicraft are forcibly set forth. The "Notes of Legal Decisions" affecting medical practitioners and the public cover those of dentistry, and a great deal of practical material useful to