

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED OF A DENTAL STUDENT.

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An English writer once said, that in England, when a man finds himself fit for nothing else, he turns wine-merchant. In this country when a man finds himself in a similar condition, it is quite common, for him to "turn dentist;" and the consequence is, that dentistry—or perhaps it would be better to say, the dentist, is not held in such esteem by the public as both he and it ought to be. So many men, who were entirely unfitted for it, by early training and education, have rushed into the practice of dentistry, that the people do not feel that confidence in ours that they do in the medical and other professions; and now that the dentists of Ontario have, by means of their Association, and by Act of Parliament, placed themselves on a new and more substantial basis, it seems a fit and proper time to throw out a few hints as to the qualifications which a man ought to possess who *proposes* to study dentistry.

As by the terms of the "Act," a Board has been appointed "to fix a curriculum of studies to be pursued by students," nothing need be said with regard to that till after the Board shall have acted in the matter; and I will proceed at once to jot down some of the qualifications which it is *essentially necessary* that a man should possess *before he commences his dental studies*. In the first place, he should be a man possessed of a strong and healthy frame and a good constitution; for, although many delicate men have attained to the highest pinnacles of the different professions, men of health and strength succeed best as a rule.

He should possess a fair amount of intellectual capability, as well as untiring industry and perseverance. He should be the most cleanly of clean men. His person, his clothes, his hands, his mouth, and, in fact, everything about him, should be kept in the neatest and cleanest possible condition.

Shakespeare says:

"The man who hath no cleanness in himself,
Nor is not moved toward washing with clean water,
Is fit for gutters, stilt-slop puns, and fleas;
Let no such man be trusted."

He should also be the most patient of men, or the thousand and one whimsies of those who are to come under his hands will sometimes cause him to lose his temper, the least exhibition of which may cost him, if not the loss of a patron, what he prizes as highly, his good opinion.