

Our Cousins Over the Border.

Occasionally some of our cousins from over the border steal away from the monotony of the dental chair to brace up for a few days in our glorious winter climate. After imperilling their necks on the Canadian toboggan, stiffening their shanks on the snowshoe, revelling in the delights of sleigh-driving over the dry and intoxicating Canadian snow, they go home again and say kind and complimentary words of the Canucks, even in spite of a frost-bite. Every busy dentist instinctively appreciates the misery of his confrere who is tied to practice; and we never yet met one who did not introduce himself with an apology for "encroaching upon your time." It is really too bad that we cannot keep an hour a day just for a good gossip with such welcome visitors. We Canadian dentists are under great obligations to our good cousins for many professional courtesies, and yet we cannot possibly discover any adequate means of reciprocity. It often strikes us, that if we could turn out all the politicians in both countries, and put the dentists in their places, the broad Republic and the broad Dominion would pull together in perfect commercial and political amity, the one under the Stars and Stripes, and the other under the Union Jack.

The Kids.

One of our little patients dreamed she saw the devil. Her parents had threatened her with the dentist, and that was enough to shape the personality of the objectionable party. He had the traditional horns, hoofs and tail. In one claw was a pair of dental forceps. His face was that of the family dentist!

It is easier to keep than to get the confidence of young children; but there are kids, seven years old, who march into the office with all the beautiful trust of a child who has never been deceived, and whose confidence is as complimentary to the parents as to the dentist. It is your fussy, nervous, talkative woman who spoils these youngsters. If they cannot make them associate the dentist with Santa Claus, they can, at least, educate them in such self-reliance and self-trust, and especially they can leave them and the dentist alone. Most of us can best manage children when the parents or governesses are out of the way.