

EDITORIAL NOTES.

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HAS the time arrived when the plan of articling students by preceptors should be abolished? The mass of the profession in Ontario have congratulated themselves for many years that our system is in advance of the system of college training as generally in vogue in the U. S. A. On sober thought, however, is our system to be preferred? As things have existed for years in our Province the dentist who did a large extracting and plate-making practice articulated as many as five or six students, and after training them in his way of viewing the question, namely, from a purely commercial and often dishonest standpoint, they were turned loose on an unsuspecting public, and the—"Lord help the public." Of course, the Board has to a large extent remedied that evil by their enactment a year or two ago, that no practitioner shall have articulated more than two students at one and the same time. These plate-making fiends can not turn out as many per office as formerly. A glance at the situation in any of our large cities, Toronto for example, will convince one that a serious evil exists still. Scores of our best practitioners are refusing entirely to articulate students at all, claiming that it is more satisfactory to hire and train an assistant, usually a lady, who, in addition to assisting at the chair, can do all the plate work required in an office where the preservation of the natural teeth is made the chief aim rather than prosthetic dentistry. In this way the great majority of the students presenting at college under our present conditions are men whose training from a moral and ethical standpoint has been, we fear, in a wrong direction. No one will deny that a student's ideas on the question of ethics are generally the views inculcated by his preceptor.

It seems to the writer that with the number of poor people in Toronto, and in our public charitable institutions, that an infirmary or dental hospital, open all the year round, with a staff of competent supervisors carefully selected as to their attainments in operating, as well as in their strictly uncompromising attitude in the matter of ethics would be more likely to guide those entering our profession in such a way that we will not be called in after years to blush for their effrontery.

It may be argued that in the U. S. A., with the system here advocated, shysters of the worst kind have been graduated, but the circumstances are so different owing to our immense advantage in the standards of matriculation, that no such argument can be successfully sustained. Taking into account also the great numbers graduated from the United States colleges, they have perhaps a very much smaller percentage of shysters than are turned out in Ontario by our office method of training.

G. S. M.