

and practice felt no particular ambition to possess the United States degrees, which, even long after that time, were conferred after four or five months' attendance upon Italians, Cubans, etc., who could not understand a syllable of the language in which the lectures were delivered, and thousands of whom to-day swagger in pretentious superiority over men who despise such teaching and the cheapness of such degrees.

Undoubtedly there were many excellent men who got the best then to be had in a perfectly honorable way: but we take the ground that the education obtained under the system which prevailed in Canada in the best offices twenty-five years ago was much superior to that given in the colleges of the period, and to-day we maintain that the apprenticeship system compulsory in Canada, which makes three and a half or four full years obligatory, the interval of attendance upon college being spent in the office, ought in time to produce the best results. The student to-day has no excuse for non-attendance upon educational provisions. The student of the past had more to attend, unless he went to a foreign country. To those under good tutors, this was considered a waste of time and money. We say this advisedly, from personal experience and investigation, and some personal controversy at the time, in which the *Canada Journal of Dental Science* had the written and spoken sympathy of many of the leading men of the United States, and even several of the deans of the dental colleges.

It was not uncommon in the early days of our organization in Canada to witness students disappearing for a few months of the winter—some of them barely able to speak or write English; some of them quite illiterate, with hardly a common-school education, and without ever having read a word on dentistry—and returning full-fledged "Doctors of Dental Surgery," having fulfilled all the College requirements! Does anyone suppose that respectable students were anxious to "imitate them for the mere sake of a piece of parchment? Happily those evil days are past, and we have no such feeling against the schools of our neighbors. Rather the reverse. They are doing splendid work for the profession, and no doubt will do even better. But when we wonder why there are not more D.D.S. among the original leaders of the reform in Canada, let us remember the difference between the value of the colleges when they were students and their importance to-day.