

### Our Manufacturers.

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It seems to be an instinct of humanity to disparage if not to denounce manufacturers. It does not matter whether they are cotton kings, sugar kings or tooth kings, we who are consumers are apt sometimes to believe that they get far too big a bite of the bun. There are two sides to this question, but we only fully know our own. We observe that there have been several millionaires made out of dental manufacturers; and it would need a dozen of the most successful dentists at least to make one millionaire. We must remember, however, that every man has his choice, and if he can get the capital and chooses to run the risk, he can become a manufacturer in a month. We may believe, perhaps, that we pay too high for many of our goods, and it is perfectly natural in this age of depreciation and bad pay, that professional men who, perhaps, suffer more than merchants, and who cannot, or do not, attempt to compromise their obligations, should have consideration shown them, and, that when the cost of platina goes down, the cost of teeth should go down, too; just as the manufacturer expects when flour goes down that his baker will lower the price of bread. The production of quite a number of the necessities of dental practice does not cost as much to-day as ten years ago; but the selling price has either been increased or remains the same. If we are wrong in this opinion, we are open to correction.

Now, there are many suggestions practising dentists could, if they would, make to manufacturers, which the latter would be glad to receive. We imagine that a number of articles we daily use were not constructed by men in actual practice. Just to name a few: The joints of all forceps made on this continent have sharp edges, and open and close in one of the most ingenious ways to wound the mouth. The joints of the forceps made in England cannot possibly wound the lips. Dental engines and office lathes are made so that if you turn them the wrong way, a screw comes out, and the whole thing is reduced to chaos. We have a new office-lathe, the pedal of which depends for security upon a small pin of steel, and when the pedal slips out of the pin, which it is perpetually doing, the pedal wobbles and the assistant swears. It is a good thing for that pin that blasphemy has no effect upon it. The head-rests—but now we despair. We have waited twenty years for a sensible head-rest, without all the nonsense which provokes patient and operator to distraction, and it is not yet discovered.

Would it not be a good plan, and one by which our manufacturers might profit, for each of the various societies to appoint a committee to report once a year on "suggested improvements?" It is not all the fault of the manufacturers that we have not everything just as we would like it; but committees such as this would