

I accept the writer as a type of a large class in the profession whose main ambition seems to display itself in a determination to drag dentistry into the dust.

So much for introduction; and now, my dear correspondent, let us commune together for a few moments.

You say that the DOMINION DENTAL JOURNAL, too high a stand, that "the profession is new in Canada, and the dentists cannot afford to starve for the sake of keeping up appearances, societies, journals."

If the profession is new, all the greater need for the very work the Journal is engaged in—all the more urgent necessity for the dissemination of that kind of knowledge which shall bring the profession out of the slough into which just such men as you have placed it. And do you really believe that those men who attend societies and subscribe for journals are the ones who come nearest starving? No, sir; they are the best fed (intellectually and otherwise), the best dressed, the best demeaned, the most in demand of any in the profession. They constitute *the* profession. Let me tell you who it is that starves. It is the narrow-minded mongrel—half dentist, half dough-dead—who shuts himself away from professional intercourse, and hugs his precious little soul in solitude, barking only occasionally when he sees something to snarl at in his profession. That is the individual who starves, not only in body, but in brain.

Your next remark is characteristic of your class. "I never asked anybody for ideas, and I don't give any."

Thank heaven for the latter statement! If you gave many such ideas as you have expressed in this letter, pity the poor dupe who would accept them. As to the first statement, you might have saved yourself the trouble of writing it. A casual observer in reading your communication could have surmised that you "never asked anybody for ideas."

Your slur on "educated young men" carries with it a small grain of truth mixed with a predominance of prejudice. It is true that many of our young graduates have more theory than they can apply, but that is not the fault of the theory, nor is it an argument against education. When you decry theory, my friend, you forget that every practical operation you perform in your office must have had some theory back of it for its development.