

except in the case of a surgical case (*The Apothecaries' Company v. Lotinga*, 2 Moo. & R. 495, and see *Leman v. Fletcher*, 42 Law J. Rep. Q. B. 214; L. R. 8 Q. B. 319). Now a dentist may or may not possess a general surgical qualification as well. If he is merely an unexamined 'registered' dentist, owing his title solely to the fact of having been in practice when the Dentists Act was passed, it is submitted that he is clearly not entitled in any case to administer these drugs. But if he is a qualified surgeon he has, upon the authority of the above-mentioned cases, the right to do so. If he possess only a diploma in dental surgery, the point is doubtful, though, on principle, it is difficult to see why he should not have this right. In view of the general importance of this question, it is very desirable that the legal qualification necessary for administering anæsthetics should be clearly defined in a manner consistent with the interests of the profession and the public safety.—*Law Journal (London)*.

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#### GENERAL NOTES.

**NEGRO SHYSTERS.**—One of the peculiar products of Washington, says a correspondent of the *St. Louis Republic*, is the colored lawyer who hangs around the police court. A large majority of the people who are brought to the bar of that tribunal are colored. The colored lawyer promptly offers to go to the rescue of the colored person upon whom the hand of the law has been laid. He will do so for a sum ranging in amount from ten cents to ten dollars. The rate depends upon the state of the unfortunate one's exchequer. Sometimes the colored lawyers have quarrels among themselves about the possession of clients. Then it is likely that they will make charges against each other. To-day, for instance, John Young, who has figured not infrequently as an advocate, was on trial himself. He was up for vagrancy. Two other colored lawyers were the witnesses against him. They gave him a very picturesque reputation, and said that he knew nothing of law whatever. They said he was a "voodoo" doctor. His legal lore, according to their testimony, consisted of a coon-foot and a rabbit-foot. These "authorities" he carried in his pocket. He claimed that by rubbing one or the other on a prisoner's neck, he can generally secure acquittal. If, however, the offence is a pretty serious one, he calls to his aid his whole law "library." He then rubs the neck of his client with both the rabbit foot and the coon-foot. He says that it must be murder in the first degree to withstand the potency of the argument of the combined rabbit-foot and coon-foot. He has been enjoying a very lucrative practice. He was ordered to keep away from the court.