

of the profession I have had the honour of belonging for thirty years—an experience I hope sufficient to justify my taking upon myself to suggest (in the absence of any law on the subject) a form that might be adopted by the Medical Board, which would at once protect the public, and raise the practitioners to a rank that would entitle them to the appellation of professional men:—

FIRST—The conduct of a practitioner should be proved to be such as will entitle him to rank as a gentleman, not having offended the laws of his country, nor sacrificed his honour and dignity as a citizen.

SECONDLY—He should show by his indentures that he has served a proper apprenticeship with some competent practitioner, in any country under the British Crown; or if from the United States, should have a diploma from the College of Surgeon Dentists in whatever State he may have studied; in either instance, proving also by affidavit that he is the person therein named.

THIRDLY—He should be submitted to such a Medical examination as will ensure that he possesses a thorough knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of the human head, face, and parts adjacent (if any line of demarcation can be given). He should also certainly have a knowledge of Chemistry, at least sufficient to enable him to prescribe in the many complicated cases appertaining to the derangement of the dental organs.

If these rules, which are now in force on the Continent of Europe, were adopted by the Medical Board here, I feel persuaded it would be received as a great boon by all persons practising the Dental art; that is to say, by those who are competent, and they who are not, should be classed in the same category with those excrescences on the Medical profession, of which the earliest cutting away is the most healthy for the body encumbered with them; and when medical men consider that perfect mastication is the primary cause of good digestion, they will, I am sure, see the propriety of my calling their attention to the subject, and at once agree with me that some such laws are urgently requisite.

With respect to the objection sometimes raised that Dentistry, being partly mechanical, is not a legitimate subject for the supervision of the medical body, I will only say, I cannot believe it could possibly be so regarded by the profession generally. Many of the highest medical authorities have incessantly impressed on their pupils, both in the lecture-room and on all available occasions, that no one could be an efficient surgeon without a practical knowledge of mechanics; and one eminent man in particular, Sir Benjamin Brodie, under whom I studied for a short time, at St George's Hospital, used constantly to make his own splints, frequently remarking that no one could make them to please him so well as himself.

I earnestly hope that the subject will gain some attention from the proposed meeting.

I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

J. B. JONES.

Toronto, 14th June, 1852.