

ideas from quack and sensational advertisements, and ethical and honest men cannot, or will not, compete with this method of public instruction. The portion of the public who confide in the skill and integrity of ethical practitioners, do not doubt that they do the best that is known, and that the pretensions of infallibility and superiority, which are for the first time discovered in the public self-eulogy, has good reason to be suspected. Dentistry especially occupies a peculiar position in relation to the public. The diseases of the teeth are supposed not to involve questions of life and death. The man who flies to the physician if he has a pain in his stomach, is not so fearful of the consequences of neglect when he goes to the dentist with a pain in his tooth. He has, or should have, thirty-two teeth; he thinks it is not in any way serious to lose one, or all. If he had as many eyes as he has teeth, and could retain the functional value of ten by losing twenty-two, or if he could get them replaced by artificial substitutes, that would serve him nearly as well, he would, no doubt, find degenerate oculists, who would accommodate his stupidity; and even encourage it. The people who have blue eyes and who would like to exchange them for hazel, could then revel in the operation, like the people who now delight to sacrifice the teeth Nature gave them for the tombstone and crockery horrors of the quack. Thousands of valuable teeth are sacrificed to public ignorance of their value, as well as of the caricature which so frequently is produced in the rage for cheapness. It is extraordinary that in this Province of many schools and eminent universities, so much ignorance should prevail of the functional importance of the natural teeth; their direct and collateral relation to many local and distant diseases, and the disfigurement of face and feature, and the interference with proper digestion which badly constructed artificial teeth may cause. So forcibly has this appeared to the Provincial Board of Examiners and the Faculty of this school that many public requests have been made to us to issue a warning through the press against dental humbug. Do you believe it would avail? I do not. It is not possible for any self-respecting man to indulge in sensational means of advice, or of attracting attention, and such official action would be so regarded. We know that these sensational advertisements are invariably the trump card of open quackery, or the last resort of those who think it will be of commercial profit to imitate the methods of quackery.

It ought to be clear to the humblest understanding that no intelligent dentist could afford to ignore any modern improvement in dental science or art, which has passed the stage of speculation and proved to be a public boon. There is not a solitary idea or acquisition of any value known in modern dentistry which is monopolized by any practitioner, however eminent he may be. It is