

tites may be surfeited with the richest delicacies of the present day. The bill of fare is varied and attractive. The savory, easily masticated and highly nutritious object lessons of Profs. Wright and McKenzie, and of Dr. J. B. Willmott, the solid, every-day necessity of Dean Black with the dessert of the anniversary, interspersed with a variety of toothsome side-dishes go to make up a most desirable and palatable repast. It is not my intention to enter on a lengthy dissertation on the possibilities or probabilities of the science and art of dentistry, but will content myself with referring briefly to some of those undesirable features that are prevalent in our profession, as in all others, in the hope that bringing them before the notice of the Society will tend somewhat towards their abatement. In the first place, let me mention the apathy that exists in the ranks of the profession respecting the "gathering of ourselves together." Why this should be is beyond the conjecture of an ordinary intelligence, and to obviate it much anxious thought has been exercised, and efforts are yearly being made to remove this deplorable condition of lethargy which is unfortunately so prevalent. Can it be possible that so many members of the profession imagine that they have acquired all knowledge, or is jealousy to insinuate itself to the detriment of the profession, or is it that this huge majority of nearly five hundred dentists cannot condescend to associate with this poor minority of knowledge seekers, or is it carelessness and lack of interest in the profession? While the cause of the trouble is in doubt, one thing is certain, that it is a case hard of treatment, and a remedy suggested by any friend will be received with gratitude.

Next, a word as to those who fail to recognize the importance, to say nothing of the courtesy, of promptly replying to all correspondence where it is expected. Very much annoyance and disappointment arises out of laxness in this respect, and very frequently at a time when it is most keenly felt. As the most frequent cause of this evil appears to be carelessness, it is all the more culpable, as admitting of no reasonable excuse. Therefore, out of consideration for the feelings of the new management, if for no other reason, I ask you to be more prompt and business-like in this respect in future.

Another evil, rather peculiar in nature has been practised somewhat too successfully for a considerable time. I refer now to the practice of "sponging" into our meetings and utterly ignoring the important fact that the conduct of the Society costs money. Many have shown by their actions that they considered it highly beneficial to attend our meetings and catch the seeds of thought intended for those alone who honestly contribute to the support of the institution. While we glory in the strength of numbers, we seriously object to professional men, who give nothing to our sup-