

the canal is left filled with unprotected organic matter. Disintegration, irritation and abscess are only a matter of time. At college I learned that cotton-filling was good for roots. For the first few months all went well with the few teeth that a cold and unsympathetic public allowed me to fill. Then the chickens "came home to roost." Those chickens are all disposed of some time ago, and I have learned a valuable lesson, and that is, that a nice, easy way of doing a difficult operation is generally no good. There is no royal road to successful root-filling; it is a test of ability.

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## Selections.

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### A New Era in Dental Practice.

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By PROF. FLAGG, Philadelphia.

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Through your courtesy\* I am with you again, to reveal the silence of years which has culminated in what I am pleased to call "A New Era in Dentistry." Forty-five minutes is but a moment, which you accord me to condense forty years of active labor and practice. I cannot blame you for the restriction, as I have always written exhaustively and hours have been consumed by me, leaving no chance for discussion at the same meeting. I will hold to your order, and leave for the future other chances for details and the consummation of the work, that my efforts may not have been in vain.

The great Master once said, "Neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead." The profession of dentistry, as that of medicine, is demanding, "What shall we do to be saved?" We are in the light of the waning days of the nineteenth century, asking each other for some system by which we can be saved the humiliation of failure in dental practice to save the human teeth, one upon which each and all can rely.

Before we can attain to any true system that shall work universally, as in the laws of interchangeable mechanics, we must accord to someone the right from a life of precedents to be umpire in his line of work.

The title of this paper is an assumption, and all I ask is to follow, and for once get out of the old ruts and walk upon the broad plane of liberality and common sense, and with unselfish eye and charity

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