

religious sisterhoods have for nearly twenty years been illegally practising dentistry in all its branches—for their own communities it is true, but nevertheless in absolute defiance of the law—we may understand the peculiarities of the professional position. What is the excuse made by a few otherwise respectable men who use the show case at their doors? The same that is offered by the otherwise respectable physician who uses the golden pestle and mortar over his door, viz., that a proportion of the people cannot read the ordinary sign or door plate; that as the boots in the window point out the shoemaker, the hats the hatter, so the golden tooth and the show case, and the pestle and mortar, respectively, indicate the dentist and the physician. Why does the quack use them? Simply as a catch-penny, and just because there is nothing too low to which he would not resort to trap the ignorant. Several have from twelve to fifteen signs of all sorts, paper, linen, wood, tin and brass, in every available space, and in addition, golden teeth hanging over the door, and show cases on each side. One party used to attract public attention by the eccentricities of a monkey whose gymnastics about his windows he daily superintended, until the Society for the Protection of Children interfered upon public complaint that he was trifling with the life of his little brother.

Notwithstanding the existence of two languages, and difficulties with which no other Province has had to contend, old Quebec has made solid reforms in legislation and education. The pioneers of dental reforms had obstacles entirely unknown in any other Province. The impecuniosity and the prejudice of some of its legislators revealed matters which were a public disgrace to local legislation, while the sore-heads in the profession preferred chaos to any condition in which they could not have a finger. We must recognize the strain which this placed upon the early pioneers of legislation. With the reasons for later trouble I will not deal at present, but I think every respectable member of the profession in Quebec owes a duty to investigate and reform certain difficulties. To these I shall, with your permission, refer later.

I would plead with some of the members to remove the vulgar public exhibitions at their doors of their professional and *personal* disgrace before the British Medical Association meets in Montreal in August. What opinion must the members of this distinguished Association, which elected a Canadian as its President, carry away of the social *status* of Dentistry if these degrading cases are continued? Some members only need to have their attention drawn to consider this proposal. I am sorry to be obliged to believe that there are others whose souls are so sordid and whose self-respect is so feeble, that they will listen to nothing that may woo them from their low instincts.