

A UNITED PROFESSION WANTED.

If there was ever a time in our Canadian professional history when men who want to do well should unite their forces against men who seek to do evil, it is the present. We have never before witnessed so many cases of aggressive unprofessionalism, of men who openly use quack methods of advertising—the woods are full of them. What are we to expect of the future? What is to be the harvest of the policy of *laissez faire*? Shall we do anything—or nothing—to counteract the public falsehoods and pretences of the quack advertiser?

Why is it that our provincial societies do not enlist the active interest of the large majority, instead of the weak minority of practising dentists? Why are the members of the Board, and the faculties of the Colleges, left to do so much work alone? What right have men to air their grievances through the JOURNAL and in letters to the editor, to which they will not put their names, on the overcrowding of the profession, quack advertising, if they take no part in the only organization where these questions can be discussed? The absentee is an unconscious abettor of the mischief-maker. The voice of the profession in a convention is echoed in the public press, and can be made to influence public opinion. The voice of the quack advertiser goes on forever, at first in high-sounding pamphlets and advertisements, and then—when funds fail—in the mere repetition of the advertiser's name. This JOURNAL is not sent to the public press, and therefore has no such public influence. The only influence it can directly exert is upon the dentists themselves, and we venture to believe it has been salutary. It is our business to stir up the profession, not to arouse or influence the public. When those who use quack methods flock together to do mischief, it is surely time for those who wish to do well, to unite in the interests of the profession and the public. The Provincial societies are the proper places to discuss these matters with a practical object. It has been pretty clearly proved in this country, that the policy of letting things drift never cures an abuse. We want firm and manly aggression on the part of honorable men. It is neither fair nor likely to be fortunate to expect the few leaders to be the only workers.

THE physician who is mean enough to use his diploma as a cover for quack medicine men, is invariably in the position in his profession to which his instincts lead him—at the bottom. The dental birds of a feather generally keep him company.