

journalism for the last twenty-five years exposes such an amount of reckless conclusion, based upon imperfect premises, that we are reduced to the necessity of doubting almost everything. Dr. Perry shows that the most opposite statements are made in certain lines of practice, and that "as both cannot be true, the natural conclusion is that the real truth is somewhere between the two extremes," and that "in trying to adjust the sliding scale we finally comprehend the fact that we are not dealing with the exact truth at all, but with individual opinions of it, even our own opinion."

Those who are familiar with the history of the old amalgam controversy may perhaps make that a starting-point, and recall from that period to the present date a mass of mistaken and mischievous assertions, dogmatically expressed, condemning lines of practice, use of materials, and with arrogant positiveness "proving" pathological results—all based upon the most unscientific and sometimes the most prejudiced reasoning, if such conclusions could be dignified as reasoning. It has always been a conviction, which we have trembled in presence of the Anglophobia critics to declare, that while in searching for truth we must all naturally blunder and stumble, yet on this continent there is a deal of hasty generalization and superficial research, and speculations in teaching and experiment, which are presented as infallible. There is something in our atmospheric conditions which impels mental effort to rush in where the cooler heads of Europe fear to tread. What Dr. Perry calls "the cold, careful, accurate language of science" is greatly lacking in our own scientific literature, and it is not uncommon to wade through "wild statements of opinions hysterically expressed" to find—nothing.

There is perhaps not one of us who does not need to apply the criticisms of Dr. Perry to our everyday practice. We are all more or less prone to believe that, in spite of the proverb, one swallow does make a summer in our particular vicinity. The young dentist especially who starts into practice with the conviction that what he does not know is not worth knowing, and who thinks that the knowledge of mere books and college clinics are superior to that of experience, will do well to heave this anchor now and then. He may not perform such fancy operations; he may insert fewer gold crowns; he may deal less in local anæsthetic nostrums; he may be less self-assertive, and find the mote in his own eye before he discovers it in that of his confrere. But he will be a better dentist in the long run, and by and by he may change his skin, so that his confreres will acknowledge that he has tried and has succeeded in becoming a gentleman.

---

Dr. Ievers has, by the advice of many of his friends, changed the name of his preparation to "Pheno-Banum."