

Books.

During the year we receive and review some valuable and interesting works necessary for the wide-awake practitioner. Apart from the purely literary interest which may attract us to books, it is absolutely impossible to know what is going on in the science and art of our profession without them. They save us not only a lot of unnecessary labor, but even a lot of thinking. They do for us what a good many need badly—they teach us the proper use of terms; and they take away the cobwebs from the brain. Even if occasionally they teach error, they stir one to discover truth. The "books for review" which come to us are meant to help students and practitioners. It is impossible for us to do justice to most of them. When only a brief mention is made of such interesting aids as the Quiz Series, it is not to be inferred that they are not as important in their respective line as the larger books specially on dental practice, such as Richardson's Mechanical Dentistry, Miller's Micro-Organism, Mitchell's Dental Chemistry, Gorgas' Dental Medicine, and the valuable works of Tomes, Sexvill, Smale, Salter, etc. We hope that during this year our readers will brush up their libraries, and the older they grow as practitioners the more zealous they will become as students.

"I Guess."

It takes a lot of guessing before one discovers how many beans there are in a quart bottle. But somebody either guesses right, or guesses near it. Still it is pure conjecture.

Sometimes we are disposed to guess that there is a good deal of this random reasoning in our profession: that sometimes very dogmatic opinions are pronounced as to the ætiology, for instance, of pyorrhœa alveolaris, upon no sounder reason or pathology than pure guess-work. Perhaps it does no harm after all, and an ignoramus may blunder upon the truth while a genius is diligently in search of it. Nevertheless, if dentistry and dental pathology are admitted to the rank of scientific professions, we must not imagine that there is a separate and distinct pathology of the teeth and adjacent structures, or that we can ignore the possibility, and indeed the frequent certainty of the constitutional origin of the local diseases we treat. Ætiology and symptomatology need to be more strictly studied in relation to dental disease. The fact is, if we stop to think about it, it is often easier to diagnose upon correct principles, than to guess. Our pathology should not be conducted like a bean-guessing bee.