

The possibility of infection of various kinds from house to house conveyed by the family physicians; the difficulty of excluding it invariably from hospital practice; the slovenliness of some practitioners, who proceed from surgical to obstetrical cases, and whose ether and instrument bags will frequently not bear inspection, which the chair, the instruments, the linen, or the person of the average dentist will stand, should make medical critics of "dental infection" think twice and investigate fully before, from glass houses, they throw stones.

"FAIRY TALES."

For most of the nonsense and superstition prevalent in the public mind about dentistry, dentists themselves are responsible. How did the French saying, "To lie like a tooth-extractor," originate? Simply because the tooth-tinker told fairy tales to assuage the fear of his patients. What is the reason that so many patients to-day believe that when a cavity is filled the tooth is insured against further disease; that when a pulp is dead all pain should forever cease; that the deciduous teeth are of no functional value; that the mouth should never again change after a "permanent" (?) set is inserted; that plates should never break; that the dentist should keep them in repair without cost, and a lot of other such absurd nonsense? It is chiefly due to the pretensions made in the press and in practice by quacks, and by men who are not quacks, but who descend to quack methods of drawing patients. It is because we have men in our ranks who find it too much trouble to teach patients the truth, and so easy to accommodate them with falsehood. It is a curious fact, which goes a good way to tempt morally loose men to lie, that many people will gulp down a deliberate falsehood, when they will choke at the honest truth. Dentists are busy men as a rule, and naturally those who are not paid for consultations dislike to give three dollars' worth of time to get two dollars' worth of operations, and as it is so much easier to convince many people that a lie is a truth than that the truth is a lie, the patient gets what he accepts the readiest, and the dentist gets business. The dentist is not in business specially to educate the public in his office, unless, at least, he can make it pay his expenses. This is all the more reason why co-operative education through other means, to counteract the nauseous advertiser, should become a part of the object of the local associations. As a rule, dentists do not risk exposure by telling fairy-tales before the association. They keep their vulgar self-praise for that portion of the public who would believe that Satan was a saint, even if they held him by the tail and saw his hoofs, providing that Satan advertised loudly, and reproved sin.