

had been merely gilded. It is a fact, however, that the idea of replacing lost human teeth by substitutes of bone or sycamore wood set in gold, has been traced to Egypt by modern discoverers in ancient sarcophagi ; and, I dare say, that some of you may have seen and handled the specimens in possession of our friend and confrere, Dr. Barrett, of Buffalo. These do not, however, substantiate any claim whatever that the work was done by specialists in dentistry, but more certainly by the ordinary gold and silversmiths, who, for instance, worked in the great synagogue at Alexandria, and who, as in Jerusalem and other places, divided the working of metals into separate branches. It is easy for you to draw upon your imagination—that is what it is for—and picture to yourself an Eastern beauty standing before the framer of a buckle or an ear-ring, and, as she perhaps smiles at his blandishments and blarney, discovers to the goldsmith the loss of an incisor. With instinctive ingenuity, and no doubt a lively sense of friendship to come, he offers to carve a substitute of bone to fill the gap, as he carved the buckle, and then fasten it to the adjacent teeth, as he would fit the ear-ring, by golden loops. Still, we must let our antiquarian dentists amuse themselves ; and when you remember that the Jewish Rabbins aver that the worms of the grave have no power over Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Aaron, Miriam, Benjamin, and David, it is not unlikely that some Chicago dentist, disguised as a Turk, strolling through Hebron, should excavate some ancient molars from a burrow, and believing they were those of Abraham, Jacob, and Miriam, contribute them to the attractions of the next "World's Exposition." Or perhaps, some of our Toronto graduates, when hunting deer or fishing for trout in the Laurentides, which Sir William Dawson's fossil discoveries verify as the oldest parts of Creation, should discover that Dental Bridge work is contemporaneous with the *Eozoon Canadense*.

But, seriously, the progress of dentistry—especially instrumental and mechanical—within the recollection of the first students of this school, has been marvellous. Young practitioners would no more think of accepting most of the theories and methods of treatment prevalent twenty years ago, than they would adopt the vagaries and materia medica of Celsus. And yet, I fear, we go into raptures without sound reason, over the claims that many make as to the progress of the purely scientific on this continent. We cannot