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# DOMINION DENTAL JOURNAL.

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## Original Communications.

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### The Power of Suggestion.

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By DR. THOMAS FILLEBROWN, Boston, Mass.

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At the meeting of the Vermont State Dental Society, in March, Dr. Fillebrown gave an interesting talk on "The Power of Suggestion." The following report will give a fair idea of his remarks, though, of course, it is imperfect as a whole:

Suggestion in the wakeful state and without any attempt to produce hypnosis, had been so successfully used by him as an obtundent for sensitive dentine, during the past six months, that he felt that a few words upon the subject would prove useful to many, and not entirely without interest to all.

The many duties demanding his time was his excuse for presenting remarks so imperfectly prepared; but he trusted the important points would not seem to be left obscure.

For a good appreciation of the subject he proposed to discuss, it is necessary to understand somewhat fully the results of modern psychical research, especially the newly-discovered fact of a double consciousness or a double layer of mental activity. On the upper plane or layer, so to speak, is the conscious mental activity. In the lower plane or layer, the subconscious or subliminal mental activity resides. For instance, when one passes along the street, the first recognizes what we are conscious of seeing; the second recognizes all that we do see.

It is in the subliminal consciousness that habits are formed. It is in this that the lasting effects of shock are felt. It is in the subliminal mind that fears become fixed that sometimes so entirely control our being and welfare. This subconsciousness directly

controls the physical functions; hence it is through this that the circulation becomes permanently disturbed, and digestion and nutrition disordered.

Neuralgic pains, and very often rheumatic pains, hypersensitiveness of many parts of the system, sensitiveness of the dentine, in most cases depend upon a disordered condition of this subliminal layer of the mind.

The subconsciousness is peculiarly susceptible to suggestion. A very slight suggestion will cause blushing, a little stronger suggestion will produce embarrassment; also fear, joy, sorrow, and all these emotions are experienced without any circumstance connected with the person to cause them, except the bare suggestion of the idea to the imagination.

Expectant attention has long been recognized as one of the most powerful synergists to the actions of medicines. The patient's knowledge of what the medicine is expected to do, very often decides what the action shall be. This is simply the power of suggestion. It was this power that led a good professor of medicine, who practised in New Hampshire a half century ago, to think that the compound tincture of gum guaiac. was all the medicine needed in any physician's practice; for it was all that he needed. The oft-repeated story of the curative action of brown bread pills, is explained in the same way.

Suggestion is the principal and almost whole power of naboli, and the multitude of more recently manufactured dental obtundents. Unless anæsthesia of the dentine is suggested, very little, or more likely, no effect is produced.

Now, as a matter of fact, suggestion is ordinarily just as effective in inducing anæsthesia of the dentine, without any pretence of using any medicinal agency.

More than two years ago, Dr. Fillebrown demonstrated that, in the hypnotic state, suggestion was sufficient to anæsthetize the dentine of the most sensitive teeth. He has lately found that suggestion, in the ordinary wakeful state, is quite equal to the necessities of most cases, and now seldom induces hypnosis to increase suggestibility.

He never urges suggestion upon patients. It is to only a portion that he applied it; many do not need it, others do not desire it, some object to it. In the last four weeks he had used suggestion for fifteen patients, and, as many of these had several sittings each, it made almost daily use of it. Thirteen cases were successful. Two patients failed to respond at all.

Males he found quite as susceptible as females. The suggestion will, in every case, quiet the nervous system, and prevent or remove the tired feeling which is so often produced by the operation.

The method of inducing susceptibility to suggestion is very

simple. If the patient has already learned the art of relaxation and repose, the preparation is complete, and they are ready to listen to the suggestion of anæsthesia of the tooth substance.

The principles of the art are well explained in Delsarte's dentalizing process, also in a small volume lately published upon "Power Through Repose." The operator needs himself to understand the art of relaxation and rest. A careful study of the volume referred to will make the matter clear.

This accomplished, he will explain to his patient that it is quite possible to obtain complete relaxation and repose, and that in that condition all disturbances will be better borne and that all pain about the teeth will be removed.

Place your hand on the forehead of the patient and say, "You will now rest down and relax all of your muscles; you will become a dead weight in the chair; your limbs, body, arms and head are feeling heavy; your muscles and nerves are resting; you are feeling entirely comfortable." Repeat this several times. Then say, "Your tooth is now anæsthetized; the sensitiveness is gone. The cutting will not hurt you; you will not dread it; the sound will not disturb you; if it hurts at all you will not mind it; it will not shock you." Then proceed to use the engine or excavator, as the case may be, gently and carefully, avoiding any sudden movement or cut; feeling all the time a repose yourself, and continually repeating the assurance that the anæsthesia is becoming more and more complete.

In this manner the teeth of a patient can be rendered insensible to the cut of an instrument while wide awake and consciousness not in the least affected.

A patient for whom he tried this lately for the first time, laughed outright and said, while he was still cutting what had been previously a very sensitive tooth, "I know and realize this is all so, but I cannot help laughing and I cannot understand it." This patient is one of exceeding good sense, and very far from believing any unreality.

Anyone who will give earnest attention to the matter and study it thoroughly until he can repose himself, will be able to lead his patients to the same goal.

This method and its results are amply sufficient for all dental purposes, and have the merit of being entirely unobjectionable to even the most radical opponent of hypnotism. Patients themselves can induce this repose, and so in such cases the operator can call for it whenever needed.

There is hardly an operator in the land but has had patients fall asleep in the chair while being operated on, and not one of them thought of being disturbed by it. Yet such cases are especially susceptible to suggestion, and such sleep is the quietness and repose and suggestibility that Dr. F. described in his paper.

### Saving Materials.

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By L. D. S., Toronto.

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When I was a student I thought my tutor awfully mean, because he made me carefully save every scrap of wax, and things I called rubbish. We had a "rubbish drawer," into which all "useless" articles were put. "They'll be wanted sometime," I was told; and it was wonderful how often the prediction came true. The idea of not wasting plaster which was only two dollars a barrel, and of being so petty about bits of vulcanite, etc., seemed to me the height of narrowness and meanness. I often feel grateful, today, to my tutor, who is dead and gone, for the lessons he taught me in economy. The principle got so bred in me that I believe I save as much rubber, plaster, wax, etc., as most men use.

I think there never was a time when we have such wasteful students as now. My experience of the average Ontario student is, that he is a very nice young man indeed, but that he rarely consults the interest in this way of his tutor. I have seen the most reckless waste of vulcanite in packing, which showed not merely ignorance but pure indifference. The fact is, students in the office are a nuisance. No money compensates a dentist for the abuse of his tools, carelessness with his lathes, etc., and the direct damage to his work by the boys who think because, perhaps, they have paid you a hundred dollars or so, they have a right to be careless, to come and go as they please, and to waste as much of everything as they use.

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### Aluminum Plates.

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By L. D. S., Toronto.

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I have given up vulcanite! Anyone who must have a rubber plate will never get it from me. I have done forever with the nasty, clumsy thing—excepting when I use enough of it to attach teeth to metal plates.

For several years I used cast aluminum plates, and, I confess, I had so many failures I returned to vulcanite; but now I am using aluminum exactly as I would use gold, for partial as well as for upper sets, and I have not only satisfaction myself, but I find my patients coming to me and wanting to get their vulcanite sets renewed for this lightest and pleasantest of all metals for the mouth. With care in striking up the plate I can make it yield to every obstruction. I make holes through it, and I secure perfect attachment.

"How do you do in a case of a single tooth, say a lateral incisor, where the space is so narrow you cannot get strength from a rubber attachment? What do you do in close bites where you cannot put any rubber at all?"

Simply this, I line and solder the tooth, and let a tail of gold plate extend beyond the line of the bite; I punch large holes through the tail, or solder a little loop or two to the end. I then rivet this to the aluminum, and there you are.

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### How are We to Get Our Fees?

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By "LICENTIATE."

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The question of fees, of cash and of credit, must always remain a *bete noir* among us, until enough of us take the bull by the horns and insist upon being treated as business men. I have never been able to explain or to get explained, the reason why we dentists are so constantly imposed upon, much more than medical men. It may be that when people are ill enough to call in a physician, their conscience becomes tender; and as life and death are more associated with medical than dental practice, patients want to keep on the right side of their physician. Moreover, there is a great deal of demeaning advertising among us, and the public, looking at the amount of it done even by respectable men, begin to think that dentistry must be more of a trade than a profession, as they do not see this done by respectable medical men. They then argue, that just as one shoemaker is perhaps as good as another, one dentist is as good for them as another, and they shop around, and they beat us down, and they ask credit.

Now, I believe that we must have dentists for the poor as well as the rich. We must let young beginners and struggling men charge lower fees, if they will, than men who have an old-established practice. I have no opinion at all to express as to a tariff, because I believe it is impracticable in a country like Canada, occupied by a population most of whom are not overburdened with superfluous cash.

But there is one feature upon which we can all agree, if we would. In face of discordance of opinion upon many points, as to whether this man or that man should be on the Board, or in the College, etc., we surely have no one to dissent as to the opinion, that whether our fees are low or high, we should have a business method of getting our money. No matter what each one's qualifications may be—all that aside—how are we to get the money we earn?

Now, while admitting that the question is a difficult one in the

present way we manage. I insist that by a change of method it could be made extremely simple. I do not write for the sake of spinning fine theories, but to point out plain facts. The public must have our services: but the public has no more right to demand them without paying for them, and paying sufficient to give us a fair profit, than the dentists have a right to get goods from the depots without paying for them. The dentists do not make the prices the depots charge for goods: and the public should not make the fees the dentists charge for their services. Yet some foolish practitioners tempt the public to believe that they can get whatever they want at their own price. I do not even quarrel about that.

My grievance is, that when all is done and said, we do not get what we earn. I find the credit system in Ontario is becoming as bad as in Quebec. It was only the other day that I learned that two dentists, who had been in partnership only three years, had over \$7,000 on their books when they dissolved, and that they had to wipe off perhaps \$1,500. I say this is a monstrous iniquity.

Now, why cannot our Provincial associations agree, to take up this question simultaneously at their annual meetings, and resolve that the practice of dentistry in Canada will be conducted more upon a cash basis. Accounts should be rendered as soon as the services are completed, and transient and unknown patients should be made to understand that services are cash. One dentist I know, makes no exception to exacting cash for all artificial work. Others render monthly accounts regularly. Others insist upon monthly or bi-monthly notes, even for \$5 accounts. I think their plans are practical and justifiable. Our outlay is not only one of material, but of personal energy and skill. When a family account is rendered, why not enclose a blank note at thirty or sixty days? If the debtor prefers to pay cash, he will. If he cannot, he cannot very decently refuse a note. Then, again, there are people who come to us, whom we cannot directly inform that our terms are *—to them—*cash. There are dead-beats and others we want to get rid of. Why not have a framed card to hang in front of the chair just before they enter the surgery, with some such information on it as this:

EVERY OPERATION AND ALL ARTIFICIAL WORK

ARE

STRICTLY CASH.

NO CREDIT GIVEN.

PLEASE DO NOT ASK FOR IT, OR EXPECT IT.

### Hasty Opinion.

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By J. H. SPRINGLE, D.D.S., L.D.S., Montreal.

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In looking over contemporary American dental literature, one is struck by the number of antagonistic classifications and peculiar nomenclature given to the different conditions with which we are concerned as dentists. It seems as-if every man who has, or who thinks he has, any standing, deems it necessary to announce new and often startling theories and names for the conditions which he meets in his practice. Usually no attempt is made to conclusively prove these assertions, either by accurate experiment or by known scientific facts. The work is gone over too hastily, and as soon as it is announced, half a hundred men, who see flaws in it, immediately point them out and take advantage of the opportunity to air their own ideas, and squelch the unfortunate writer, although they are in turn picked to pieces by everybody else. Our American cousins are, perhaps, apt to look at things in a too superficial manner. Life is too short with them to consider a case in all its bearings; it is only seen in the light in which it first strikes them. Each individual member of the greatest nation on earth is generally of the opinion that mentally he is quite as good a man as his neighbor, if not a few degrees better. Few are willing to recognize and look up to the really scientific investigators, of whom they have not a few, and, in consequence, these men are perhaps better known in foreign lands than in their own, where the loud voices of their pigmy *confreres* dim their brightness. An instance of this is found in the way Dr. Black's scholarly and truly scientific articles in the *American System of Dentistry*, have been received by the different college staffs. Is it not the case that almost every professor of pathology will give a pet classification of his own, rarely supported by experiment or proof and often consisting of several conflicting theories? In every second article we see the expressions, "I hold" this or that idea, "my opinion" is so and so. In a recent number of a prominent dental journal, is a controversy between two gentlemen on the presence of uric acid in the disease known as *pyorrhœa alveolaris*. One of them has proved by a few experiments, to his own satisfaction, that uric acid is present; the other, on the authority of a lesser number of experiments, states positively that it is not present, or if so, is in unimportant quantities. Now, it is evident that one of these gentlemen is wrong, although both write with the calmness of conviction. Would it not have been better if they had both taken a little more time and trouble about these experiments? Even if they had not announced their important conclusions for a year or so, the world would have waggled on in the

same old way. Perhaps if they were to read Mr. Chas. Darwin's manner of supporting one of his theories, they might get a few pointers. He brings a great mass of independent evidence together, all pointing in the one direction, and even then he does not say, "therefore my theory is a fact," but, "is it not very probable that my theory is a correct one?" This is science, and, also, it is hard work.

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## Proceedings of Dental Societies.

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### Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario.

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Results of the examination just completed :

**FINAL YEAR.** Passed—Alton Anderson, C. N. Abbott, J. W. Bell, F. E. Beemer, J. D. Cameron, M. F. Cross, Charles Cobban, Donald Davidson, G. A. Dewar, W. R. Greene, H. A. Galloway, F. G. Hughes, V. H. Lyon, A. A. McKenzie, Chas. Colter, D. Marshall, J. McKnight, A. E. McCordick, G. A. Newton, B. F. Nicholls, G. R. Patterson, R. J. Read, W. A. Scott, E. A. Totten, H. P. Thompson, W. T. Wood, J. R. Mitchell, A. E. Webster, F. L. Wood. Passed in anatomy, materia medica, and practical dentistry—J. C. Bansley, O. A. Marshall, J. F. Ross, R. A. Willmott. To take chemistry again—E. B. Shurtleff, T. S. Fairbairn, Charles Neill. To take physiology again—E. B. Shurtleff, W. A. Sangster. To take surgery again—Chas. Neill, W. A. Sangster. To take anatomy again—T. S. Fairbairn.

**JUNIOR YEAR.** Passed—D. Black, W. C. Brown, W. J. Bruce, I. P. Cunningham, W. B. Cavanagh, Geo. Emmett, W. S. French, E. W. Falconer, W. T. Griffin, J. L. Leitch, C. B. Little, E. W. Oliver, K. Peaker, H. C. Skinner, N. Schnarr, R. G. McLean, F. H. Walters, A. J. Wyckoff, J. N. Wood. T. Levey will take anatomy and chemistry again. G. F. Baker will take histology, comparative dental anatomy and bacteriology again, and take anatomy, materia medica and metal work in final year. C. P. Sherman will take histology again, and complete technique and take anatomy and materia medica in final year.

**FRESHMAN YEAR.** Passed—R. M. Armstrong, F. Britton, J. A. Bothwell, J. M. Bell, J. J. Brown, T. E. Ball, Wm. Burnett, S. J. Campbell, L. G. Campbell, J. E. Cummings, S. E. Foster, O. H. Hutchinson, J. E. Johnston, W. W. Kenny, G. H. Kennedy, W. E. Lundy, A. E. Little, J. F. McMillan, L. M. Mabee, J. C. Mathison, H. McQueen, F. S. Mercer, A. L. McLachlan, W. A. McLean,

G. A. Roberts, A. P. Rogers, John Sweet, W. G. Switzer, J. G. Somerville, J. A. Simpson, W. T. Templar, E. S. Washington, W. S. Westlund. D. Baird, prevented from writing by illness, permitted to take a supplemental in all subjects. G. H. Sweet will take histology. T. A. Hart will take anatomy and histology. Louis Cashman will take histology. Ford Butler and J. C. Moore take anatomy, again.

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### University of Toronto, Examination for D.D.S., March, 1894.

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The following are the results of the recent examinations in dentistry in the University of Toronto :

**FIRST-CLASS HONORS**—G. A. Dewar, J. McKnight, W. A. Scott, F. L. Wood, W. T. Wood.

**SECOND-CLASS HONORS**—C. N. Abbott, D. A. Anderson, J. W. Bell, J. D. Cameron, M. F. Cross, D. Davidson, W. R. Greene, V. H. Lyon, D. Marshall, J. R. Mitchell, G. A. Newton, B. F. Nichols, G. R. Patterson, R. J. Read.

**PASS**—C. P. Cobban, F. G. Hughes, A. E. McCordick, A. A. McKenzie, G. J. Musgrove, H. P. Thompson, E. A. Totten.

D. Baird completed his examination for D.D.S., by passing in anatomy and in physiology and histology. H. A. Galloway must pass a supplemental examination in medicine and surgery before obtaining his degree. J. F. Ross and R. A. Willmott passed in materia medica and in anatomy, as students in the second year in the Royal College of Dental Surgeons.

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### Toronto Dental Society.

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The regular monthly meeting of the Toronto Dental Society was held on Monday evening, April 9th, in the Society's permanent quarters in the Y. M. C. A., Yonge St. An interesting and profitable paper on "Causes of Failure in Dental Operations," was read by Dr. F. D. Price. The discussion of the subject was taken up by Drs. J. B. Willmott and McLaughlin. The election of officers and standing committees for the coming year resulted as follows:—Hon. President, N. Pearson; President, Wm. Wonder; 1st Vice-President, Harold Clark; 2nd Vice-President, J. F. Adams; Secretary, E. Forster; Treasurer, A. J. McDenagh; Membership and Ethics Committee, McLaughlin, Wood and Mills; Programme Committee, Wonder, Clark and Adams.

## Selections.

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### The Golden Wedding of Sir John and Lady Tomes.

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Towards the end of last year, as most of our readers may be aware, it was decided at a representative gathering of the profession, to present to Sir John and Lady Tomes a suitable offering on the occasion of their golden wedding. A committee was appointed, and it was decided to bring the subject under the notice of those connected with the various scientific and other societies connected with dentistry.

A meeting of the subscribers to the presentation fund was subsequently held on February 3, at 40 Leicester Square, the chair on the occasion being occupied by Sir Edwin Saunders. This gathering, after hearing the statements of the Hon. Treasurer and Secretaries, unanimously decided that the most opportune way of celebrating the event would be, the foundation of a scholarship for original research in dentistry and its allied branches. It was at the same time decided to prepare an illuminated address enclosed in an album, expressing the honor and esteem in which both Sir John and Lady Tomes were held by all, the names and addresses of the subscribers to the wedding gift to be also inserted in the album, together with the names of the ladies who had contributed to the purchase of a special gift to Lady Tomes in shape of a handsome silver-gilt inkstand.

A representative deputation was appointed to wait upon Sir John and Lady Tomes on the day preceding their golden wedding day, and accordingly on St. Valentine's Day, February 14, the following journeyed to Upwood Gorse, Caterham: Sir Edwin Saunders, Messrs. T. Arnold Rogers, S. J. Hutchinson, G. Brunton, G. A. Ibbetson, J. Smith Turner, F. Canton, Walter Campbell, W. F. Forsyth, J. H. Mummery, A. J. Woodhouse, S. Lee Rymer, J.P., E. Trimmer (Secretary of the Royal College of Surgeons), W. H. Woodruff, W. B. Paterson.

Sir John and Lady Tomes, in the presence of relatives and friends, having cordially received and welcomed the deputation, Mr. Thomas Arnold Rogers addressed the assembly, and said:

As Chairman of the Committee, but who has never taken the chair, nor indeed performed any of the duties of the chairman—unless perhaps occasionally to make himself disagreeable—I beg permission to say a very few words of regret for my inability to fulfil those duties. At the moment of summoning the first meeting, I was overtaken by illness which has incapacitated me from taking any active part. But I have the satisfaction of knowing that the work has been done much better without me than it would have been with me. Mr. Hutchinson immediately came to

the rescue, and we all know how thoroughly he has performed his part. And Sir Edwin Saunders very kindly, and at some personal inconvenience presided over the last committee meeting, and I need not say that Sir Edwin is a chairman *par excellence*.

My duty on the present occasion somewhat resembles that of "Wall" in the "Midsummer-Night's Dream." I am, as it were, the medium of communication between the lovers. And I do not think I am wrong, in the remembrance of all that has passed, in considering those whom we are met here to-day to honor, and ourselves, lovers in the truest sense, who have ever been desirous of living the life most conducive to the mutual welfare. But I must not say more, lest the fate of "Wall" in the play befall me.

I therefore beg, Sir John and Lady Tomes, to introduce Sir Edwin Saunders as the representative of those who have united to found the Sir John Tomes triennial prize; and Mr. Brunton, who, happy man, on this appropriate day of St. Valentine, represents the ladies, Mrs. Brunton having taken the initiative in offering their gift to Lady Tomes. And I will now conclude in the words of "Wall":

"Thus have I, Wall, my part discharged so,  
And being done, thus Wall away doth go."

Mr. Brunton, on behalf of the ladies, presented Lady Tomes with a silver-gilt inkstand, and in a few words expressed their congratulations, and the hope that she might long be spared to make every use of it.

Sir Edwin Saunders: Sir John and Lady Tomes,—This flying visit to the peaceful, sylvan shades of Upwood Gorse, at a season which cannot be regarded as the most favorable for the full appreciation of its beauties, demands a few words of explanation. In the first place, let me assure you that you are not being interviewed, so that we may speak with the unrestrained freedom of social intercourse. We are here, then, to signalize a somewhat rare and interesting event. Golden weddings are not of every-day occurrence, and in these days of revolting daughters, emancipated women, of equality of the sexes—which always means the supremacy of what used to be considered the weaker sex—and of general relaxation of the old social order, such events become more and more precious, and ought not to be passed over without some recognition; for they furnish the best possible, because practical, answer to the somewhat cynical question, "How to be happy though married." We are here in a dual capacity—first, as old friends who have watched with interest your life pilgrimage; and, second, as representing, at least *pro hac vice*, the profession with which you, Sir John, have been so long, so closely, and so honorably identified. We all represent some society, association, or other interest connected with that profession, and I may truly say

that there is not a man present who "hath not on a wedding garment." And we are here in both capacities to bring all good wishes, all kind thoughts, all pious aspirations—thankfulness that you are both in the enjoyment of so large a measure of health and hopeful anticipations for the future.

It goes without saying that when rumor crystallized into fact, and it became known that a golden wedding would synchronize with St. Valentine's Day, there was but one unanimous feeling that it should not be allowed to pass without recognition. But there was room for some divergence of opinion as to the form and method of such recognition. And when I received a letter on the subject from our old friend, Mr. Thomas Rogers, who is never found wanting when anything gracious or courteous is in question, I confess that my imagination did not rise higher than a paragraph in our journal, and a pyramid of cards, letters and telegrams, variously expressing congratulations and felicitations, accompanied more or less by gifts of flowers and works of art arriving on the day. But it soon became evident that a larger scheme was desired, and would find general acceptance, and when it fell into the capable hands of Mr. Hutchinson its success seemed assured. To this I at once gave my adhesion, stipulating only that my own little offering should not be prejudiced, with the presentation of which my share in the day's proceedings terminates, for I am sure that I shall best consult your wishes and your interests by calling upon Mr. Hutchinson to lay before you a detailed account of the scholarship.

The following verses, composed by Sir Edwin, were read by him :

TO SIR JOHN AND LADY TOMES,  
*On their Golden Wedding.*

Dear friends, to-day the golden crown is yours,  
The crown of triumph, not of martyrdom ;  
Fifty long years of happy wedded life—  
Years of sweet counsel, mutual help and love,  
Of life made sweeter by companionship.

Fifty years since, a youth and maiden fair  
Asked for a blessing of St. Valentine ;  
For him, it meant God's last best gift to man,  
For her, an added dignity to native charm.  
'Twas wisely done—and now the crown is theirs.

Accept, dear friends, this simple offering  
Of songs and praises of your patron saint.

EDWIN SAUNDERS.

Mr Hutchinson then read the address, which had been beautifully illuminated, and was enclosed in an album of white morocco and gold. as follows :

We, who have recorded our names in this book, tender our

heartly congratulations to you, Sir John and Lady Tomes, upon the attainment of this, the fiftieth anniversary of your wedding day.

This event, though in some sense a private one, seems to afford an opportunity which we gladly seize—for expressing in a manner more personal than would be appropriate to any more public occasion, our recognition of your life-work and mutual devotion.

The singleness of purpose with which this object (nearest to the hearts of all of us) has been pursued—whether it be the scientific, the social, or the political advancement of our professional interests—has called forth this expression of regard and esteem, which, it has been thought, could take no form more in accord with your well-known feelings, than that of a personal gift to your devoted helpmate, and the foundation of a Scholarship or Prize Essay, to be awarded triennially to members of our profession, for original work in any direction of scientific inquiry.

This, it is hoped and believed, will commemorate in rising and future generations, the appreciation by us, your contemporaries, of your life-work in the educational reform of your profession, and inspire in them something of the same spirit of high aspiration and self-denial, which have characterized your long and honorable career. We express our earnest hope that you may both be long spared to enjoy your well-earned rest, in the assurance of the warmest good wishes of your many friends.

Sir John Tomes : Sir Edwin Saunders and Gentlemen,—Words will fail to express in fitting terms our acknowledgment of the kind and generous feelings which have prompted your visit and offers, in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of our wedding day, offers of gifts that will hand down the name to generations yet to come, by distinctive rewards to future workers in the cause of dental science. Encouragement, if not a necessity, is a great help to the young while gaining the needful equipments for the battle of life. And approval of the results of the fought-out battle is very grateful to the old, cheering the coming time, whether measured by months or years. For the approval you have so kindly expressed at the present time, and provided for in time to come, we offer our most sincere and heartfelt thanks. I do not stand alone ; I have worked with many workers, whose devotion to professional progress taken in the widest sense of the term, is recorded in the minutes of the Odontological Society and of the British Dental Association. You have selected me from amongst them for the reception of honors, in which they must also take a share. There is one, however, whose name will not be found in any record ; yet she, in willingly waiving her claim to what might have been my hours of leisure, has contributed to the results you have set forth in such flattering terms. No one feels more strongly than Lady Tomes that those who have lived by the practice of a

profession, owe a deep debt to that profession payable only by personal devotion to its general and special interests. It has not been our custom to mark the wedding day by even a family gathering; and until ten days ago, when your proceedings were made known to me, though we might have departed from the usual habit by asking a few near relations to dine with us, we had no thought that the event of to-morrow—our fiftieth anniversary—would have assumed the importance your proceedings have given to it. Had I been consulted in the later stage of your generous actions in our behalf, I could not have devised a more acceptable form of commemoration; for while the connection of the name with the triennial prize is a great personal distinction, the award of the prize for an original paper of ascertained merit is a direct educational gain to the profession as a whole. The very handsome ink-stand, and the album inscribed with many names, will be constant reminders of the very kindly feelings entertained by the subscribers towards my wife and myself. You wish us still longer life and further happiness. We, in return, wish you one and all, long life and health, and the measure of happiness in the future that has marked our past fifty years of unbroken concord.—*Journal of the British Dental Association.*

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### Opening of the National Dental Hospital, London, England.

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His Royal Highness the Duke of York, attended by Major-General Sir Francis de Winton and Captain the Hon. D. Keppel, performed the ceremony of opening the new premises of the National Dental Hospital and College, Great Portland Street, of which institution the Prince is President. The new hospital, which is the gift of the Dowager Lady Howard de Walden, has cost some £10,000 to erect. It is a handsome building, with an exterior of red brick, and comprises a large lecture hall, laboratories, special demonstration rooms, a stopping room capable of accommodating seventy-five patients, and other offices, the architect being Mr. A. E. Thompson, of Leadenhall Buildings. Among those present at the opening ceremony were the Bishop of London, Lord Strafford, Vice-President of the Institution, the Dowager Lady Howard de Walden, Mr. L. G. F. Cavendish Bentinck, Mr. Alban Gibbs, M.P., Sir W. Gilbey, Major-General A. Ellis, Mr. J. G. Noel, the Rev. A. J. Robinson, Mr. S. Lee Rymer, Mr. S. Spokes (Dean of the College), Mr. A. E. Thompson, Sir P. Spokes, Mr. Underwood, Dr. Coupland, Dr. Littlejohn, and Captain Evans. A guard of honor was furnished by the Honorable Artillery Company, under the command of Captain J. Pash, and a large crowd assembled outside the hospital and heartily cheered His Royal Highness, who was

accompanied by His Highness Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar and the Duke of Fife, both of whom are members of the committee of management of the hospital. On the arrival of the Prince the guard gave a royal salute, and the band played a few bars of the National Anthem. Lord Strafford, having received the Prince, presented the members of the committee of management to His Royal Highness, who afterwards inspected the new buildings. In the lecture hall, where the opening ceremony took place, a dias covered with crimson cloth was erected, and the commodious apartment was ornamented with palms and flowers. The Prince, who escorted the Dowager Lady Howard de Walden, was warmly cheered on entering the hall. The proceedings were commenced by the Bishop of London offering prayer, after which

The Earl of Strafford rose amid cheers to tender thanks to the Duke of York for allowing his name to be associated with the institution as its president, and for being present to inaugurate the new building. He remarked that though dental surgery had long formed part of the instruction at hospitals, yet previous to 1860 there were no buildings specially adapted for the pursuit of that branch of surgical science. In that year a small building in Great Portland Street was established as the first dental hospital in London. Since then many thousands of people had received benefit from it, but the premises were very narrow and cramped, and, considering that a college of instruction with lecture rooms was highly necessary for the furtherance of the objects of the institution, the management felt that the work was somewhat confined in its operations, and were very anxious for larger and more commodious premises. Those premises, thanks to the noble gift of the Dowager Lady Howard de Walden, they were that day in possession of. They now had every hope that the good work of the hospital might be extended. When he mentioned that no fewer than 27,902 persons had, during the past year, received relief by the surgical skill of the staff of the hospital, he thought they had a fair augury that this beneficent and useful work would in the future be extended. In conclusion, Lord Strafford expressed a hope that the Duke of York and his illustrious consort might be blessed with many years of health and happiness.

His Royal Highness the Duke of York, who was received with cheers, said:—"Lord Strafford, your Royal Highness, my Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen, it gives me much pleasure to attend here to-day, and to assist in the carrying on of such a useful institution. Of the many hospitals engaged in charitable work for the poorer classes, I feel sure that the National Dental Hospital must afford an amount of relief in the particular kind of cases dealt with here, which some of us are apt to overlook. I am glad to learn from Lord Strafford of the good work done here, and whatever may be the criticism sometimes passed upon the establishments of so-called

"special" hospitals, I feel sure that dental hospitals cannot be open to objection. One peculiar feature is that the actual treatment of patients is mainly carried out, as a matter of routine, by students. I am informed that after a special preparatory stage, the student is entrusted with the charge of patients, under the supervision of the surgical staff. At the close of the curriculum, when the student presents himself at the Royal College of Surgeons for examination, he has performed all the operations he may expect to meet with during his professional career. Thus the patient and the student render mutual aid, for the former has the advantage of receiving the benefit of skilled treatment. As president of the hospital, it will give me satisfaction to know that the same good results are continued in the future. I must not omit to refer to the munificent action of the Dowager Lady Howard de Walden. It is due to her generous interest in the beneficial work carried on by this institution for the last thirty years, that we are able to meet in this handsome building to-day. I have had an opportunity of seeing the excellent arrangements now brought to completion, and I heartily trust that nothing may interfere with the successful attainment of the ends in view, namely, the alleviation of dental troubles amongst the suffering poor, and the education of a race of future dental surgeons who may do honor to the special branch of surgery to which they will belong. I have now much pleasure in declaring this new building of the National Dental Hospital open for the useful purpose for which it has been erected."

The Prince then left the hall, and proceeding to the entrance of the new buildings, unveiled two tablets, one of which refers to the gift of the building by the Dowager Lady Howard de Walden, and the other to the visit of His Royal Highness. The proceedings then terminated.—*The Journal of the British Dental Association.*

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## Correspondence.

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*To the Editor of the DOMINION DENTAL JOURNAL :*

SIR,—I have a very warm feeling of respect for the editor of the *Dental Practitioner and Advertiser*, of Buffalo; but I cannot discover what we Canadians have done to rouse his ire on the subject of education.

There are a great many men who get credit for being great men, chiefly upon their own declarations; and I think if we had more bounce in Canada, or more self-assertion, we would be more respected—by some people. I do not mean to apply this to your contemporary; but it is generally the case in the United States, that they

overshadow us in a great many respects purely by the magnitude of their assertion. I hope I say this in a spirit of fair play, at the same time of self-defence, which will be understood by fair-minded men. We have so many better things in Canada than they have over the border—I do not mean professionally—and I believe if we bragged more about them, they would get more appreciation. One of these is our system of dental education, which we formulated ourselves, chiefly from the British standard. I agree with your repeatedly expressed opinion, that we should not lower our educational level so as to embrace in our ranks the uneducated bell-boy and office-sweep, but that we should raise it, so as to induce the highest university man to join us. The former drag us down to their trade level: the latter lift us up to their professional standard.

Twenty-six years ago I was one of a number of young men—youself among them, I remember very well—who went to the United States to enter a dental college. I remember the result of our exploration and observation was to satisfy us that our time and money would be wasted, that the medical lectures which we had taken in Toronto and Montreal for two years were superior to what was being given in the Dental College, and the practical anatomy so much more thorough, that we felt we had nothing in that line better there, excepting some valuable instruction on operative dentistry, which we got subsequently much better from the late Dr. Atkinson. I remember the occasion when two of the colleges were publicly cut off from recognition by the Quebec Dental Board for repeated violations of their terms of graduation, and if it is necessary for your purpose, I can supply you with the way in which degrees were conferred upon some men who to-day set themselves up as of superior clay to their fellows. It would be easy, vulgarly speaking, to shut their mouths. Some of these men who sneer at those who did not graduate in a dental school should rise and give us their own personal history, how many days or weeks, when and where they attended college before graduating; or where, when and how they got other degrees they flourish.

In Canada we have for a long time exacted a preliminary entrance examination. Before the valuable organization of the National Association of Dental Faculties, when its colleges were asking attendance of only eight or ten months to graduate, we were exacting forty-eight months? The United States "year" was a sessional "year." Ours was a calendar year. We never had, and I believe never will have, anything to learn from our neighbors as to the matriculate standard, as to the courses on anatomy, physiology, chemistry, practical anatomy. But I freely acknowledge that we always had, and I believe always will have, much to learn from the greater population, on the operative and mechanical branches, which in a country having so many more millions of

people than Canada, are necessarily more advanced and practised. In defending our own system, the DOMINION JOURNAL is defending our own self-respect; but we do not respect one whit the less, as you have fairly shown, the great advances, both in theory and practice and education, made by our good professional brethren in the United States.

Yours,

Toronto.

L.D.S.

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## Editorial.

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### Admission to Study Dentistry.

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There still exists a wide difference of opinion between the dental educationalists of England and the United States, as to the standard of education required from candidates for entrance to study. It would seem to be inferred, from many contributions in the journals, that, for reasons unknown or not declared, our American cousins, with a population of 60,000,000, with richly-endowed universities, a superior system of common-school education, a marvellous supply of literary and scientific institutions, magazines and papers, are not prepared to raise the matriculation to the standard required in Britain and in Canada. The editor of the *International Journal*, in the March issue, remarks, "It is questionable whether the profession are ready to advance this beyond what is regarded as a good English education, and we are not sure that it would be advisable at the same present time, but it is an additional reform that must come. We can have no sympathy with the methods adopted in England and on the Continent in this respect, and do not believe that the high standard there required can ever be adopted in this country, as far as dentistry is concerned. In order to meet its demands, a young man's best years are sacrificed to the attainment of information which, while in itself of great value, is utterly useless in a practical profession such as ours must ever remain. The change, if any be made, must be made to a slightly higher standard."

Why should not the ranks of dentistry be drawn from the higher educated class of the community? Why not from the universities in preference to the common schools? It may be argued that some of the best men in our profession had a very limited education. It may also be stated, as a fact, that some of them had no education at all. But it will not be pretended that a low standard of education is a *sine qua non* of professional aptitude, or that a classical and mathematical education is a bar to success. If the preliminary examination at present demanded, would have shut out some of those who have honored our ranks for many years, could it not be

argued that it is shutting out many to-day who might honor our ranks in years to come? Educationalists are not philanthropists. They should have no sentimental considerations. It is surely time, with all the educational advantages possessed, to demand a higher standard from young men who have to enter at once upon such studies as Anatomy, Physiology, Chemistry, Materia Medica, etc., ignorant of the very elements of the languages from which most of the terms used in these sciences are derived. Such education is but a caricature and a travesty, and will explain much of the peculiar "scientific" discussions for which dentistry, more than any other profession, is distinguished. If educationalists mean to make dentistry nothing better than "practical," it will be in order for medical men to repossess the ground of scientific study and training, while dentistry proper descends again to the ranks of tooth carpentering. But if it is to be classed among the liberal and learned professions, as it certainly is in England and on the Continent, in Canada and Australia, it must at least aspire to exalt its standard of admission, so as to exclude those whose limited education hinders them from fully comprehending and assimilating scientific studies. It need be no barrier to an ignoramus, if the ignoramus determines to prepare himself for entrance. If he is incapable of such preparation, he is unfit to be better than an exclusive mechanic. Dentistry has long ago escaped from its purely mechanical probation, and it is time the reproach was removed that we are "fractionally qualified beings" whose science is mostly smatter.

Sixteen years ago Dr. Charles W. Elliott, President of Harvard University, delivered an address in Boston before the American Academy of Dental Science. We have frequently stated that we might quote eminent authorities in the United States to prove the weakness of American dental education, and it will perhaps suggest good grounds for advancement, by contrasting the situation to-day with what it was when Prof. Elliott spoke: "It is well known," he said, "that thousands of rude, ignorant men have entered the profession, attracted by its apparent profitableness and debarred by no law, no established usage, and by no intelligent discrimination of the public against uneducated practitioners." . . . "As the future of a profession—whatever may be its present—is largely determined by the nature of the education which the youth who enter it receive, it is the condition of dental schools which should first engage the attention of those who wish to place dentistry on a level with the learned professions. All the evils which threaten the profession would gradually but surely disappear if dental schools could be made independent, strict and thorough, and public opinion could be so enlightened as to make the calling inaccessible or profitless to uneducated men." . . . "The first fact which strikes one, at the outset of an enquiry into

the methods and practices of dental schools, is that most of them do not demand, as a qualification for admission, any preliminary education whatever. No matter how ignorant and untrained a man may be, most dental schools are open to him. Until very recently all the medical and law schools in the United States were in the same ignominious condition. Among American professional schools, the theological schools alone, and not all of them, have escaped this degradation. It would be difficult to exaggerate the effect upon the estimation in which the profession of medicine and dentistry are held, of the fact that, until within two years, these professions have been accessible to men who could barely read and write, and have actually been entered by thousands of persons who never received, at school or college, the early training which, in the great majority of cases, is an essential preliminary to a life of refinement and cultivation."

It may not conduce to the numerical strength of college attendance that such advancement should be made, but there are not only far too many dental colleges, and too many students in most of them, but the educational standard of the large majority is not what it should be. It is very exceptional to find a student who has graduated in Arts disgracing dentistry by quack methods of advertising. It is very common to find a large proportion of the illiterate "Doctors of Dental Surgery" at the head of every unprofessional dodge, as they are, as a rule, at the tail-end of any ethical or progressive reform. A high standard of matriculation would be the surest, even if it would be a slow antidote. The facilities for higher education in the United States are more democratic than in England.

Speaking of the preliminary examination in Arts required of all candidates for registration in England, Prof. Elliott adds: "There is no need of argument to prove that such conditions of entrance as these will, in the course of twenty years, greatly improve the quality of the mass of the profession in England, and it is the mass, and not the few persons of exceptional gifts, that educational regulations are always intended to affect. If American dentistry, as a profession, is to maintain its rank in the world, it must be defended by similar requisitions against the incursion of inadequate men."

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### Prof. Elliott Again.

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Our friend, the editor of the *Independent Practitioner and Advertiser*, thought we were rather hard on "American Dentistry," in our criticism of the colleges in their past career. The remarks above by Prof. Elliott are very *apropos* to the position we took, especially with reference to the lack of proper matriculation. Speaking of the schools of the period, Prof. Elliott denounced the

shortness of the term and the period of study—two years of four months each “year.” “Many dental schools accept five years of practice as a dentist, instead of one year of study of dentistry, thus still further reducing the already small amount of intellectual training required for the degree. If a man can bring evidence that he has practised dentistry five years—no matter how ignorantly—he can obtain the degree of one of these schools by attending a single winter session. Is not the public right in regarding the American dental diploma as small of general culture? Is it always good evidence even of thorough acquaintance with dentistry?”

The Doctor touched upon the relations between the degree of doctor of medicine and doctor of dental surgery, and said: “Many eminent dentists have regretted the institution of a special dental degree, and have maintained that every dentist should be a doctor of medicine. Let it be granted at once, as a fact beyond dispute, that the full training of a physician and surgeon would be useful to a dentist. He who should follow the three years’ course for the doctorate in medicine, and should then give eighteen months or two years to the peculiar studies of dentistry, would be a much better trained man than he who has given but three years in all to professional study.”

The editor of the *International*, referring to the time of which Prof. Elliott spoke, says, in the March number, “The status of dental education at that period was about as bad as it possibly could be. The large majority of the schools were acting under a nominal two years, with courses of from four to five months. The so-called rule of “five years’ practice,” admitting students to the senior year who could present evidence of having had five years’ practical experience, was in full force in the large majority of colleges. The results that had followed the adoption of this rule had become a professional scandal, as it was a notorious fact that a very large proportion thus admitted never had had the practice required.”

It is certainly gratifying at this late day to have this unsolicited testimony to the “scandalous” breach of the “requirements for graduation,” which provoked the Dental Board of Quebec, twenty years ago, to cut off from the list of recognized colleges two offenders. The storm of defiance and the threats of litigation against the public action of the Board evaporated like smoke in face of the proofs of gross violation, such as the editor of the *International* points out.

It is our conviction that, twenty years hence, the best minds among our cousins over the border will be as much ashamed of the present low standard of matriculation as they are of the past fraudulent “five years’ practice.”

## Dental Education Again.

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“ALAS! ALAS!!

The sad, sad condition of American dental schools, especially those of twenty years ago, still rests with overwhelming weight upon the mind of our good brother of the DOMINION DENTAL JOURNAL. He really cannot rest because of what once existed here. We, upon this side the line, have much to cheer us in the fact that a school that will probably furnish us a model for all time has been started in the Province of Quebec, and we regard with as much of complacency as possible the prospect that the superior advantages offered will induce a migration of students to Montreal, and leave us as bare as a plucked fowl.

“Upon both sides of the great lakes it is a singular fact that the would-be instructors of experienced teachers, the men who alone seem capable of properly conducting an educational establishment, are those who are non-graduates themselves. The only men who know all about the schools are those who have never attended them. Singular, is it not, that those who have had college training, and who perhaps have had years of experience in teaching, are the very ones who know nothing about it? Or perhaps it is the corrupting influence of a teacher's life, which so debases them that they necessarily become dishonest, sordid, and possessed by an insane desire to ruin their chosen profession.”—*Dental Practitioner and Advertiser*.

The above is the latest contribution of our facetious contemporary to the polite literature of dental journalism. He has abandoned the herring which he trailed across the scent in discussion, and confines himself to the “sad, sad condition of American dental schools” twenty years ago. We have no apology to make for holding opinions on that score, so much more authoritatively expressed by the President of Harvard University, by most of the leading educationalists, and especially by the editor of the *Practitioner* himself.

*En passant*, the editor knows perfectly well that the college opened in Quebec Province never offered inducements to students, that it has not issued a calendar, and has been barely mentioned, and never advertised, in this or any other journal. Our worthy friend can continue to crow as the champion collegiate rooster, with never a fear of losing to Quebec the smallest feather.

The assumption that nobody knows anything about dental education unless he has graduated in a dental college is puerile and illogical. It might as fitly be argued, that nobody knows anything about the English language or arithmetic, unless he is a graduate of a seminary. If we follow our worthy editor from premises to conclusion, it will appear that the hundreds of gradu-

ates who were ignorant of English, and who passed only one session before graduation twenty years ago, are better educators, and must have a better knowledge of the best methods of dental education, than educated men who have passed two or more sessions in medical universities, who have studied the dental education of two continents from an impartial standpoint, who have been earnest students of dental literature and science, and who, as examiners on Dental Boards, had frequent opportunities to detect most thoroughly the deficiencies of the curriculum of the past system. In arguing with our contemporary, it is sufficient, in order to refute his statements in one place, to quote them in another. The case he defends on page 111 of the last issue of the *Dental Practitioner and Advertiser*, he demolishes on page 101. While assuming that the schools of twenty years ago were better than we declared them to be, he says "the curriculum was so narrow, and the term so short, students believed that the objects gained were not sufficient to warrant them entering a college." That is the whole sum and substance of our argument, which some months ago he so severely denounced. He further admits that "the curriculum is not yet what it should be. Three years may be a sufficient time, provided the whole of it is spent in the prosecution of the proper studies. When the winter term is but five months, it may become a mere incident in other labors. Farmers' sons, and those who are engaged in other avocations, can go to college during the winter, very much as in the country the boys and girls attend school during the same months—because there is little else to do. The five-months' term, as Prof. Truman cogently remarks, really means about three and a half, for the first two weeks are spent in organizing the classes, two more are taken out for holidays, while the examinations and closing exercises occupy perhaps three more, so that the time actually spent in study may be made ridiculously inadequate!!"

The worthy editor, further to exemplify his consistency, proceeds to remark: "When the term is short, and confined to the winter months, a poor class of students is encouraged to commence study. They are ambitious to do something besides hoe corn, and they earn sufficient during the rest of the year to keep them during a short term in college, and hence they commence a dental course without the proper and needful preparation. They have not sufficient of education to qualify them for a professional life. Their pecuniary circumstances are such that they cannot pursue their studies between terms, and hence what is gained during their four or five months' work in the winter, is lost when their attention is turned to other matters in the spring. . . . Every honest and competent educator knows that it is quite impossible properly to cover all the studies that should be included in the curriculum, even in three terms of seven months each. . . . As

for a five-months' term, it is too often but a travesty upon study."

And any amount more of the same argument. It is quite evident that our worthy friend is ashamed of dental education to-day, and that he will, after all, come around to accept the three and four full years of twelve months each year, prevalent for the last twenty years in the Provinces of Canada he sneers at. There could hardly be greater fun for anyone who has nothing else to do, than pulling to pieces the meshes of such sophistry, and contradicting the positive statements of to-day by the positive statements of yesterday. *Quantum sufficit.*

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### Graduates and Non-Graduates.

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It would seem as if some leading educators imagined, that mere graduation in a dental college in one session of four months, without matriculation, without knowing the language in which the lectures were delivered, without any previous experience or practice, was sufficient to elevate one above the average practitioner, who had built up a successful practice by dint of conscientious study and application, and immeasurably greater advantages than any school was able at that time to supply. The travesty of education which put thousands of D.D.Ss. into our ranks, can only find defenders to-day among polemical curiosities, who must play to the galleries, and who are in the habit of hitting heads wherever they pop up, for the mere sake of a sort of pugnacious popularity.

How did most of the leading practitioners who began practice twenty-five or thirty years ago obtain the degree of D.D.S.? How much, if any, time did they put in at college? As a correspondent says, "Some of these men who sneer at those who did not graduate in a dental school, should rise and give us their own personal history: how many days or weeks, when and where they attended college before graduating; and where, when and how they got other degrees they flourish."

We know men who graduated in one short session who did not know an English letter from a cuneiform inscription—who did not even pass an oral examination through an interpreter. We know men to have stepped out of the stable as hostlers and graduated as doctors of dental surgery in one session. Any quack—we emphasize the "quack"—who chose to declare that he had had five years' practice previous to entrance was exempted from one of the two sessions. The whole system was rotten at the core, and it would be much more honorable to acknowledge it than hypocritically writing twaddle in its defence, in any shape whatever.

It may interest some people to know that when the profession was first organized in Canada the intention—which would have carried in the Legislature at that time—to give dentists the title of

D.D.S. instead of L.D.S., was successfully opposed by the leading reformers of the time. The opportunities to obtain American degrees on the same terms as they were received by our worthy friends, were certainly not wanting to Canadians, and in many cases they were secured. But, to assume that the degree of M.D.S., granted by State Boards twenty-five years ago, in consideration of being in actual practice several years, and after such examination as to literary knowledge as Boards at that remote period thought necessary; to assume that the degree of D.D.S., granted about the same time in one session, to gentlemen who curiously continued their practice with an occasional run down to Philadelphia to attend the College in session; to assume that other degrees, conferred after a somewhat desultory course of study, not one of them under conditions which were even tolerated in Canadian education since dentistry or medicine were organized as professions; to assume that such a travesty of education qualifies the possessors of these degrees to swagger in insolent superiority over men *who could have had them on the same terms*, but who despised them, is an assumption of huge proportions, something akin to the resolution of the other "superior" people in the Western States, who "Resolved that the elect shall inherit the earth. We are the elect."

To sum up, the possession of the degree of D.D.S., obtained twenty-five or thirty years ago, is no proof whatever of superior training, as the training was most deficient. We do not believe it inspired one man to become a better dentist than he would have been if he had never seen the inside of a college. It did no more for him than an honorary degree. The man himself deserved whatever praise was due to his skill or talents. To-day, under the *ægis* of the National Association of Dental Faculties, the D.D.S. is a degree to be respected. We do not think that this journal merits the abuse it has received from the editor of the *Dental Practitioner and Advertiser*, for alluding to facts in connection with the education of the past, in which Canadian dentists, who have contributed their proportion to American colleges in recent years, are as much interested as our facetious and friendly contemporary. The object honest men should have in going to a dental school is to get knowledge, not a bit of parchment.

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### Head-rests.

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Several times we have editorially drawn attention to the uncomfortable head-rests of our modern dental chairs; but we perhaps overlooked a dangerous condition of the necessary parts of a dental chair, which ought to be guarded against. A few weeks ago a physician mentioned to us the fact, that he had several patients who had contracted ringworm by contact with a dentist's chair. A curious coincidence occurred in the cases of two other

patients of the same dentist, both of whom had ringworm, evidently from the same cause. We were permitted to examine the head-rest. It was never covered with a napkin; it was greasy and dirty from use and old age. The dentist was perfectly innocent of any danger from its use in this condition, and seemed to be grateful for the suggestion to use napkins.

It is a very simple matter to have a good stock of clean, white napkins for the purpose, and to change them for every patient. Skin diseases have been contracted in barber's chairs, and the dentist's chair is quite as dangerous in this respect.

The Dental Society of the State of New York will hold its twenty-sixth annual meeting at Albany, May 9th and 10th.

The Connecticut State Dental Society will hold a union meeting in connection with the Connecticut Valley Society, at Hartford, third Tuesday in May.

The Illinois State Dental Society, at Springfield, Ill., second Tuesday in May.

Maine Dental Society, third Tuesday in July, at Rockland.

Michigan State Dental Society, June 7th, at Ann Arbor.

American Dental Association, first Tuesday in August, at Old Point Comfort, Va.

Southern Dental Association, July 31st, at Old Point Comfort, Va.

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