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Proceedings of Dental Societies.

OPENING CEREMONIES OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF DENTAL SURGEONS OF ONTARIO.

The new building of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario, on College Street, Toronto, was formally declared open on Thursday, October 1st, 1896, under the most auspicious circumstances. The opening ceremonies commenced at 3.30 o'clock p.m., in the main lecture hall, where the dentists, professors and their friends to the number of two hundred had assembled, among them being many nicely attired ladies, whose presence added greatly to the occasion.

The hall was beautifully decorated with potted plants, sweet-smelling flowers, British and American flags, and festooned with the College colors—red and blue. Above the blackboard were the initials "R.C.D.S.," wreathed with the colors of the College. Altogether the effect was most charming. Glionna's orchestra discoursed appropriate music during the afternoon.

To the strains of "God Save the Queen," the following gentlemen accompanied the President, Dr. R. J. Husband, into the hall, and were seated on either side of Dr. Husband, who occupied the chair: His Honor Lieutenant-Governor Kirkpatrick, Capt. Arthur Kirkpatrick, Hon. G. W. Ross, Rev. Principal Caven, Prof. Thos. Fillebrown, Dr. H. T. Wood, Dr. J. B. Willmott, Prof. L. Teskey, Prof. W. T. Stewart and Drs. A. M. Clark, G. E. Hanna, W. A. Brownlee, J. A. Smith, J. A. Marshall and Mr. Dick, the architect of the building.



DR. R. J. HUSBAND, President Board of Directors.

Dr. R. J. HUSBAND, in opening the meeting, said: "Ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the members of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario, I extend to you a cordial welcome to join with us in the opening ceremonies of our new College. Those of you who have not had an opportunity of going through the different departments of the College will be escorted through after this meeting is closed. In opening this College this afternoon, we desire to recognize the helping hand of our heavenly Father in its erection, and I will therefore ask the Rev. Dr. Caven to offer the opening prayer."

Rev. PRINCIPAL CAVEN—
Thou, Lord, art the source of all good and of all blessing. In the name of Jesus Christ, thy

beloved Son, we seek from thee the pardon of our sins, purity of heart, peace with God, and devotion to His service. We thank thee for the loving kindness and tender mercy with which thou dost visit us in Christ. We thank thee for the hope of eternal life given us in Him. We thank thee for all temporal blessing by which this life is cheered and strengthened. We bless God for the intellectual endowments which He has bestowed upon us, by which we are elevated above creation around us. We thank thee for the educational advantages so richly enjoyed by us in this land. We thank thee that thou hast caused provision to be made for the education and training of all classes in this community; especially do we give thanks for the educational establishments such as this, in whose interests we have to-day met. The Lord has been pleased to bless this institution in the past, and make it an efficient means of accomplishing useful work. Thou hast prospered the efforts of those who undertook to build and to equip this edifice, and in opening it for its proper work this day we humbly seek that thy divine blessing may rest upon the instruction which shall be here communicated. Richly bless and endow those who shall teach and those who shall learn in this establishment, and make it more and more useful and efficient in accomplishing the work which it represents. Accept this offering which thy servants to-day desire



DR. WILLMOTT, Dean.

to dedicate to thee, and abundantly bless those whose liberality has provided it. Bless us all with the knowledge of thy will in this life, with a heart to serve thee faithfully, and receive us at last into thy heavenly kingdom. Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Dr. HUSBAND— It is with pleasure I introduce to this audience Dr. J. B. Willmott, Dean of the Faculty, who will read a paper, "Review of Dentistry in Ontario." It is not necessary for me to say anything in intro-

ducing Dr. J. B. Willmott to the dental profession, as he is well known to all.

Dr. J. B. WILLMOTT, whose name was received with applause, read the following paper:

REVIEW OF DENTISTRY IN ONTARIO.

The opening of this substantial building with its magnificent equipment, owned by the dental profession of Ontario, would seem to be a fitting time to look backward and briefly trace the development of dentistry in this Province.

In the beginning, dentistry as a profession in the Province of Ontario was "without form and void." That beginning does not date back more than fifty years, 1846. At that time there were probably six persons in the Province engaged in the practice of dentistry, all either from England or the United States. These increased, partly by immigration, and more largely by a brief apprenticeship of from three to twelve months in the office of a practitioner, so that by 1866, when organization first began to be discussed, the numbers were estimated at 175. In January, 1867, Dr. B. W. Day, of Kingston, invited a number of dentists to meet in Toronto for the purpose of organizing a Dental Association for the Province. The result was so encouraging that another meeting was held in Cobourg in July of the same year, which was more

largely attended and the organization completed. At the third meeting held in Toronto, January, 1868, eighty per cent. of the legitimate dentists of the Province were present. The credit for this successful attempt to organize the profession is largely due to Messrs. B. W. Day, J. S. Scott, F. G. Callender, John O'Donnell, G. V. N. Relyea, C. S. Chittenden and H. T. Wood. Of these Dr. H. T. Wood, Toronto, is still an honored and active member of the Ontario Dental Society, while our venerable friend, Dr. Relyea, is an active member of the Sixth District Dental Society of New York State. The others are gone over to the great majority or are engaged in other occupations.

As the result of misunderstanding and personal grievances, a number of members of the Ontario Dental Association withdrew, and in October, 1868, organized the Ontario Society of Dentists for the specific purpose of discussing professional subjects. In 1869 the two societies united under the title of the Union Dental Association of Ontario, enrolling a large percentage of those legally engaged in practice. With the exception of three years the society has held annual meetings, at which a fair percentage of the licentiates have attended, with profit to themselves and advantage to the profession. From time to time local societies have been organized, so that these now exist in all the principal cities, as well as a vigorous "Eastern Dental Society," embracing the section of country lying east and north of the city of Kingston. It is to be regretted that the membership in the societies has not increased in ratio with the increase in the number of practitioners. Possibly the younger members have been crammed so full of information at college that they have no capacity for further instruction. One of the immediate results of the organization of the Dental Association in 1867 was an agitation for statutory incorporation. This movement was materially assisted by the members of the Medical Council and the heads of the Medical Schools in Toronto. After much consideration a draft statute was approved by the Association in January, 1868, and a petition for its enactment presented to the Legislature of Ontario then in session. The time was opportune; the Legislature was favorable; public opinion approved; the only difficulty lay in adjusting legislation to the personal views and interests of each of the two hundred dentists of the Province. This difficulty seriously endangered the bill. Many dentists had friends in Parliament, and several of these were ready with amendments to cover the private interests of constituents. Conferences were held, compromises suggested, finally an agreement reached and on the last day of the session the bill was read a third time and passed. On the 4th of March, 1868, amid the usual beating of drums and salvos of artillery, the Lieut.-Governor, Sir William Howland, presented the new-born corporate infant to the public, bestowing

upon it the high sounding but "truly loil" cognomen of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario. |

✓The "Act respecting Dentistry," as passed in 1868, was undoubtedly crude in many points, and incomplete and inefficient in others, but, when disposed to criticize, it is well to remember that it antedates every other dental statute in the world, except an obsolete one of five very innocent clauses, adopted by the State of Alabama in 1841. The framers of our law had absolutely no precedent, nor was anything to be learned from the experience of others, as they were experimenting in an entirely new field. The test of twenty-eight years has vindicated the wisdom of its framers and leads the men of to-day to suspect that they "built better than they knew." As difficulties in administration were developed the Legislature has cheerfully made such amendments as seemed necessary, so that now, with the single exception of a weakness in the "penal clause," it may be considered as complete. Having made considerable inquiry concerning dental legislation, I have no hesitation in saying that Ontario has to-day a more efficient dental law than is to be found elsewhere. Permit me to summarize: The whole dental profession is incorporated as the Royal College of Dental Surgeons; of this College every legal practitioner is a member. Its affairs are managed by a Board of Directors, made up of one representative from the teaching faculty, and seven representatives elected biennially in as many territorial districts by the members resident therein, the election being by closed ballot, sent by mail, so that every one may participate. The duties of these directors are to fix an entrance or matriculation standard for students, prepare a curriculum of studies, appoint the members of the teaching faculty and supervise the School of Dentistry, appoint a Board of Examiners and, on their report, pass candidates for graduation and issue license to practise in the Province of Ontario, and generally to administer the affairs of the Corporation. | That these powers have been conservatively exercised and no attempt made to form a close corporation, is evidenced by the fact that during the year ending September 1st, 1895, ninety-seven students, and in the year ending September 1st, 1896, 188 students, have been matriculated, a number unfortunately very much greater than our increase in population and wealth would justify. The gentlemen who from time to time have been elected directors, and have given time and thought to the affairs of the College, are entitled to, and I trust receive, the thanks of every member of the profession. But one of these, our honored friend, Dr. H. T. Wood, has been a member of every Board since 1868. The present directorate have initiated a practice which they hope may be continued by their successors. That each succeeding class of students may become familiar with the features of the men who have so wisely guided the affairs of

the College, they have had made by the well-known artist, J. W. L. Forster, Esq., life-size crayon portraits of the past Presidents and the present President, and the Dean of the Faculty, and these now adorn the walls of the Board room. Since the profession was incorporated in 1868, 726 certificates of license have been granted by the directors; of these 21 are not in the Province, 77 have died, 83 have removed or ceased practice, and 545 are now resident practitioners.

Since very early in our corporate history, 1872, an entrance examination has been required of dental students. In 1878 the certificate of the Education Department was substituted and since that time no entrance examination has been held by the College. The standard has been raised from time to time until now it is matriculation in the faculty of Arts of a Canadian or other recognized University, or an equivalent certificate issued by the Education Department of Ontario. In this matter we may fairly claim to lead the dental colleges of the world.

Closely associated with the incorporation of the profession was the question of a School of Dentistry. At the first meeting of the directors this matter was the subject of discussion. In August, 1868, appeared the announcement of the "Canada College of Dentistry," Toronto, a private undertaking, but so far as I can learn, it never materialized. In October, 1869, the teaching department of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons was organized, and commenced operations. At the close of the first session the directors were financially embarrassed, and the staff was disbanded and the school closed. At the meeting of the Ontario Dental Society held in Hamilton, July, 1875, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"In view of the admitted want of a dental school in this Province, this Society earnestly recommend to the Board of Directors of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario, as soon as possible, to avail themselves of the powers given them by the amended Dental Act, and take the necessary steps to establish a School of Dentistry in Toronto, and to aid it by such appropriation of funds as in their judgment may be expedient."

On receipt of this resolution the directors of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons, after some hesitation, decided to take the necessary steps to establish a school, and requested Dr. J. B. Willmott and Dr. Luke Teskey to undertake the task, the conditions being that the directors should assume no financial liability beyond any grant which might be voted in aid of the school. These gentlemen gave the matter long and serious consideration, and finally accepted the commission on the terms prescribed by the directors, conditioned on their granting \$250.00 for furnishing, \$150.00 per annum for rent, and that not less than eight students would promise to attend the first session.

These conditions were complied with and the School of Dentistry opened on November 3rd, 1873, with eleven students. At the regular annual meeting of the directors in March, 1876, this agreement was formulated into a by-law under the provisions of which the school was conducted, Dr. W. T. Stuart and Dr. W. E. Willmott being subsequently added to the faculty and demonstrators appointed as necessity required. By 1893 the attendance had so increased that it was thought wise to amend the by-law so as to provide that the school should be conducted by the directors, they receiving all lecture and other fees and paying the teaching staff and all other expenses. The school was reorganized, the staff enlarged, and for the fourth time new premises obtained and fitted up. At the meeting of the directors in April, 1895, it was apparent that the only way to provide suitable accommodation for the growing classes would be to erect a building.

With \$16,000.00 cash in hand it was thought that the enterprise could be easily financed. A lot was purchased, Mr. D. B. Dick selected as architect, a Building Committee appointed and the matter so vigorously pushed that by August 1st, 1895, contracts were let and the work commenced.

This beautiful and substantial building, with its complete equipment, has cost, including the ground, \$46,000.00. By the first of November next the liability of the directors will not exceed \$11,000.00. This entire property belongs to the dentists of Ontario, each one of whom has an equal share both in ownership and management, a condition of things unique in the history of dentistry, and one on which the dentists of Ontario may well be congratulated.

In the early efforts at dental education a difficulty was encountered in the fact that while all the American dental colleges conferred the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery, the Royal College of Dental Surgeons had no such power.

In 1872 the directors sought from the Legislature several amendments to the Dental Act, and among them authority to confer a degree. The Hon. Adam Crooks, then Minister of Education, informed them that the policy of the Government was to confine any further degree granting power to the University of Toronto, and that at the ensuing session the University Act would be so amended that it would have power to grant a degree in dentistry as well as in other branches of science. This promise was kept, and to benefit by its provisions, prompt application was made to Toronto University for affiliation and a curriculum in dentistry. This was backed up with such respectable precedents as the Royal College of Surgeons, England, Harvard University, Mass., the University of Michigan and others. The petition was presented by Dr. Wm. Oldright, our staunch friend in the Senate, but, though

no official intimation was ever given that the application was declined, we were never advised that it was granted. In turn application, formal or informal, was made to each Ontario University with one exception and these were officially or unofficially refused or declined. Dentistry had not yet assumed sufficient importance to be recognized.

When Mr. Wm. Mulock, now the Hon. Wm. Mulock, LL.D., Postmaster-General of Canada, was elected Vice-Chancellor of Toronto University, his policy was to widen its sphere and influence and to encourage suitable affiliations. His attention being called to the needs of the dental profession, he suggested that another application for affiliation should be made. This being done, it was received by the Senate in the most cordial manner, a statute, affiliating the Royal College of Dental Surgeons, being passed in May, 1888.

The curriculum was approved in November of the same year and the first examination held in March, 1889. It is a somewhat interesting coincidence, that on the day dentistry in Ontario, as a corporate body, attained its majority, March 4th, 1889, twenty-five dentists and dental students paid in their fees and filed their applications for admission to the first examination ever held by a British University for a doctor's degree in dental surgery.

The high standard which characterizes the curricula of the several departments of Toronto University is equally maintained in that of dentistry. While the degree of D.D.S., like that of M.D., confers no legal rights, so far as practice is concerned, it is an honor to which every dental student in Ontario aspires. While in 1868 but one gentleman in Ontario, Dr. H. H. Nelles, of London, possessed a dental degree, in 1896 over 270 members of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons are Doctors of Dental Surgery.

In an hour or so His Honor the Lieut.-Governor will declare this building opened. For what purpose? Not to educate men to practice a specialty of medicine, but to educate dentists. Dentistry cannot properly be considered a specialty of medicine. It is true that it is a branch of the healing art, but it has not grown out of medicine; it forms no part of the curriculum of medical schools; it has received no aid from medicine as a profession, though individual physicians have rendered it great service.

In its genesis and history no closer relationship can be traced than as an adjunct of medicine it covers an important field in the great healing art for which medicine has not in the past, does not now, and is not likely in the future, to make any provision. Dentistry has grown up outside of medicine. It has organized its own colleges. It has its own text-books, its own literature, its own periodicals, its own societies and its own appliances.

Though, compared to general medicine, it occupies a very narrow

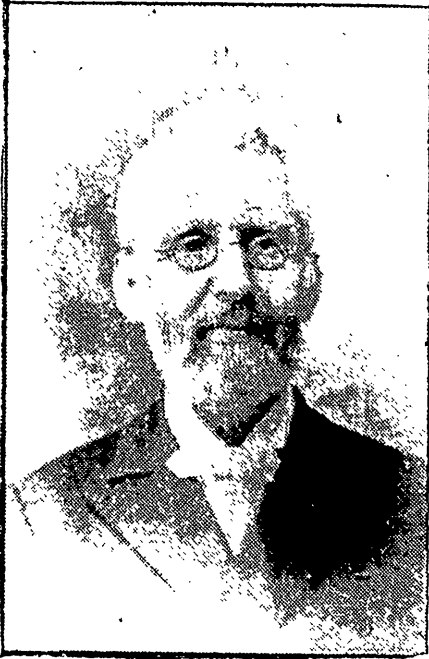
field, it has still a score of unsolved problems, in which all civilized members of the human family are deeply interested, to the solution of which the brightest and ablest of men might well devote their thought and energy. Dentistry in Ontario has made great progress in the past thirty years. With added advantages it may make greater in the next. Buildings and material equipment do not make efficient educational institutions; that depends on the teachers, but these are of great assistance.

The aim of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons is, through its teaching faculty, to so educate the mind, judgment, eye, hand, and heart that its students may become skilful, successful, honorable dentists, proud of their profession and a blessing to their fellow men.

To this end this building is this day dedicated.

Dr. HUSBAND—I have now a pleasing duty to perform in introducing to you the oldest member of the Board, Dr. H. T. Wood, Chairman of the Building Committee. You have already heard from the Dean of the College that Dr. Wood has been a member of the Board since 1868. Dr. Wood has rendered valuable services for us on the Building Committee.

Dr. H. T. WOOD, on rising, was received with applause. He said: Your Honor, ladies and gentlemen, I might say this is the proudest moment of my life. I have been waiting for this object for the last twenty-five years, and I am now witnessing what I have looked for. In as much as the history of dentistry was well given to you by Dr. J. B. Willmott, I will devote my time to the preparations for the building of this house. As soon as the financial question was settled, the Board went to work as one man; they went to work in harmony, they worked in unison, and they laid the matter before the architect, Mr. Dick. Before going on with the building, and before concluding the primary arrangements, we thought it advisable to appoint a committee to visit the American colleges. Dr. J. B. Willmott and myself were appointed. We visited two colleges in Baltimore, two in Washington, three in Philadelphia and one in New York. We obtained all the knowledge that we possibly could, as well as getting the benefit of their long experience. I understand that the Baltimore college is the oldest dental college in the world. We took notes of the way the buildings were erected and the appliances they had, so as to give us some guide for the building of this College. We came home with considerable knowledge, which was stored in the storehouse—Dr. J. B. Willmott; through him it was given to Mr. Dick, and from which Mr. Dick made the plans and specifications—that was so far as the building proper was concerned. The building was then built, and last year the roof was put on, and the building enclosed. This spring it was thought wise to send another committee to visit



DR. H. T. WOOD, Chair-man Building Committee.

the American colleges, and the worthy President, Dr. Husband, and Dr. W. E. Willmott were appointed. They visited different colleges, one in Buffalo, one in Detroit, one in Ann Arbor, two in Cleveland, and three in Chicago. They obtained a lot of information, and they came home and supplied the storehouse—Dr. J. B. Willmott, with more figures and plans. Having this information, Mr. Dick, our architect, went to work and prepared the plans and specifications for the fixtures. This building is now complete, and so far as I know, or can learn, we have the most complete dental school that exists on this continent, or possibly in the world. We have it complete in every sense. We

have had in erecting this building the advantage of the long experience of those colleges that have existed for years, that is a very important thing in building an institution of this kind. In regard to the building, it is three stories and a basement, the measurement being 106 feet deep by 50 feet frontage, with twenty-four rooms, three lavatories, with light, heat and ventilation. The ventilation of this room is as complete as the day will permit. I think you can hear the fan running which is carrying the foul air from this room, throwing it out of doors, and the fresh air coming in over our heads taking its place. We have every convenience and every improvement in this building that science will suggest, and I again repeat that so far as we know, this College is the most complete institution of its kind in the world. We trust this College will do good service and be a benefit to the people of the Province of Ontario. I know if the dental profession is benefited that the community will be benefited, and thus it must be a benefit to the people of the Province of Ontario, and this building has been erected for that purpose. (Applause.)

Dr. Husband then vacated the chair, and Dr. Wood presided for the remainder of the meeting.

Dr. WOOD—I have much pleasure in introducing to you the Hon. Dr. Ross, Minister of Education.

Hon. G. W. ROSS, on coming forward, was received with

applause. He said : Ladies and gentlemen, I wish to congratulate the directors of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons, and the faculty as well, on the very beautiful illustration they have given us of what good sense, judgment and taste can do in providing suitable accommodation for instruction to the profession. I have not seen all within this building, but I have seen the greater part of it. In every detail considerate provision seems to have been made for the wants of the students, for their comfort, for their instruction, and in every other respect in which their advantages could have been anticipated. The College directors have shown great judgment and enterprise in embarking upon and engineering this building to completion. Of course to us not familiar with the details of the profession it is somewhat marvellous that the directors were in such a strong financial position. How they got \$16,000 to begin with, is what I cannot understand, when we consider the difficulties that we have in finding money for other things. Perhaps they had been anticipating a gold mining boom in British Columbia. (Laughter.) I am glad to see that they put the money to such good use. I might say here, if they have any money that they do not know what to do with we will be pleased to receive it. (Laughter.) I am glad to observe from Dean Willmott's paper the progressive and upward evolution of dentistry in Ontario. It seems to have made a suitable advance, and it shows that somebody with judgment and forethought must have managed the interests of the profession from its earliest history in Ontario, otherwise we would not have had such good results. As a member of the Ontario Legislature, I am delighted to know that the Legislature of this Province had the good sense to early trust the dentists of Ontario. There was a great deal of progressive spirit in the pioneer days ; if there had not been, this great profession might have remained dormant, and we would not have seen this beautiful structure erected. It is what you might expect from the Legislature of Ontario, and also considering that I have taken so much pains, as Minister of Education, to train the people of this country, as well as Dr. Ryerson, who had worked so hard to lay the foundation so as to be able to give the people a good education. I am also pleased that the Royal College of Dental Surgeons have an ideal in regard to professional education. You have taken a high standard for matriculation in this profession. It is of first importance to the profession that young men should not be admitted if they have not reached the proper educational attainment. Professional success and skill cannot be obtained without the training of the mental faculties. When a student enters upon a professional career, unless he has had a literary career before he entered, it is almost impossible for him to obtain it after. I am glad for the honor of the profession that you have

adopted such a high standard as matriculation in arts, as high as that of the general profession of medicine, and as that of the legal profession. That standard is a good starting point. To that you have added a strong faculty which deals with the various phases of work in the departments. The profession should not fail with such a high professional standing on the part of your students. I do not know much of the mysteries of the dental profession. I have occasionally called into a dentist's office, and I know with what coolness he begins to torture you for so much a molar or tooth. I am grateful for the many improvements in the profession, and for its desire to improve itself within. Such a desire is worthy of every profession in this country. It is a pleasing thing to know as Canadians that we have educated accountants, architects, engineers, teachers, and even our plumbers, who are required to be educated. You cannot have anything to teach, in the material life, that is of so much importance as science and skill. It is encouraging to those interested in education in this country to know that such a spirit is abroad in this land, and that spirit is reciprocated by every profession in the land. The next thing to see to, is to have the professional politician educated by the same process, so that he can solve with skill some of the great problems of state. I do not know if it would not be a good thing to have an educational test applied to the voter so that he would know the reason why he casts his ballot for one party rather than the other. I am glad also, for I am intimately associated with the work of the University of Toronto, to find that the University has received into affiliation this interesting institution. It is the youngest of thirteen affiliated schools or colleges. We are not ashamed of the Dental College, although the youngest of the family, and we are generally the fondest of the young promising child that has not cut its wisdom teeth, as an affiliated institution, but it seems to have cut its teeth as a teaching institution. The University has done wisely in admitting you. I am glad the State University does not want the little chaps to stand at a respectful distance away; that is not the purpose of the State University. The State University is trying to give tone and character, and to foster a spirit of good feeling towards every educational institution. It is doing that with the denominational colleges that have affiliated with it; it is doing that to the Ontario College of Pedagogy, that is the Teacher's High School; and it is doing that to medicine and to the pharmacists. The more it can do consistently with its dignity and great responsibility, the more will it be fulfilling the great purpose for which it is endowed. Mr. Ross here spoke in complimentary terms of Mr. Dick, the architect of the building, and in conclusion he said: Let me say that a great responsibility rest upon the graduates of this school. A responsibility also rests

upon all educational men, who have given all their best efforts to the country. You and the Association are doing much for the education of the young men who receive an education at your hands. What should the graduates of this school give in return? You should give the best services you can to the country for the dignity and proficiency of the profession, as well as giving honest work, as Carlyle says, "having regard for veracity in everything." No stigma should rest upon the character or standing of any graduate of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons. Not only should we be good ourselves, but we should be broad-minded citizens in the fullest sense. The graduate should honor his college and his university, and if he does we feel obliged to look up to him, not only as an authority in his profession but as an educated citizen, as taking an intelligent interest in every matter that affects the education of his fellow-citizens. We have a claim upon him for the education he received, and we can only hope that the work was well done. If the foundation laid shows defects, then the structures reared will show them for many years; if it is well laid, then that will be a test of the College of Dental Surgeons, for those who receive instruction here will reflect credit on the institution, and they will be a constant benefit to the country in which they received such a generous and useful education. (Applause.)

Dr. WOOD—I have pleasure in calling upon Prof. Thomas Fillebrown, of the Dental Department of the Harvard University. This is my first interview with him, but in introducing him to you I may say that he is well known to the profession here through the literature of the dental journals.

PROF. THOMAS FILLEBROWN, on coming forward to speak, was received by the orchestra playing "The Star-Spangled Banner," the audience rising to their feet. He said: Mr. President, members of the Dental Society of Ontario, Your Honor, other guests and ladies, I have no apology to offer in opening my remarks. Men differ; but I intend to deal with the theme I am about to discuss as it appears to me. A question has arisen, "Is dentistry a specialty of medicine, or is it not?"

THE FUTURE OF DENTISTRY.

Before entering upon the discussion of my theme, I desire to express my pleasure in being present to-day to assist in the exercises of this interesting and important occasion, and to return my thanks for the great honor conferred upon me by the invitation to address this appreciative and interested audience, and also make known my appreciation of the fact that you have esteemed me worthy to bring the congratulations of my confreres over the border, and in a degree represent the dental profession of the United States of America.



PROF. THOMAS FILLEBROWN, of Harvard.

I also desire to express the high esteem in which the members of the profession in this Province are held by their brethren in the States.

I wish also to thank the Royal College of Dental Surgeons for sending to the Association of Dental Faculties a delegate who has, in representing its interests, displayed such accurate knowledge, consummate tact and good judgment. The Association has been greatly benefited by his presence and advice.

I offer to-day the cordial greeting of the dental profession of the United States to the dental profession of Ontario, and I am happy to feel that the import and export of this commodity is unrestricted by government duties or commercial necessities, but is the subject of full and free

reciprocity. It seems to me fitting that to-day I should say something of "The Future of Dentistry," not in Canada alone, or in America alone, but dentistry as such in the world.

When looking into the past we shall find the antiquity of dentistry as great as that of medicine. We shall find dentistry of the present strong, active and progressive, and promising a vigorous future.

All great enterprises, economic or scientific, are the results of specific personal efforts, and every line of progress has been inaugurated and promoted by the devoted sacrifice of interested individuals.

Mathematics can never be dissociated from the honored names of Archimedes, Euclid, Kepler and Napier.

Astronomy is the discovery and almost the creation of Thales, Ptolemy, Galileo, Herschel and their coadjutors.

The science of chemistry has among its founders Aristotle, Paracelsus, Priestley, Davy and Berzelius.

Whenever the science of physics is mentioned, the names of Pliny, Newton and Franklin appear as a part of the science itself, for without their discoveries and researches it would have no basis upon which to rest.

Medicine also was born of personal effort, and the names of

Æsculapius, Hippocrates, Galen and Harvey are indelibly incorporated into the theory, practice and art of medicine and surgery.

In order to give a horoscope for dentistry, we must needs look somewhat into its past and also study the present, and the broader we find the foundations laid in the past, and the more vigorous is the present, the brighter is the hope of the future.

Dentistry has a noble past, an honorable present, and there is awaiting it a glorious future. The past is founded upon the efforts of a noble company of men whose names are revered and whose works are held in honor.

Centuries before the Christian era, medicine was divided into specialties, and dentistry appears among the first mentioned. Herodotus mentions observing the practice of dentistry among his travels in Egypt.

Hippocrates and Aristotle studied and wrote of the teeth, and two centuries later (300 B.C.) Heraclidus, Herophilus and Erasis-tratus are recorded as dental operators. The latter invented the leaden odontogogue or forceps. A little later Celsus advised the use of the file upon the teeth.

Thus we see that as early as the Christian era dentistry had a solid foundation in the personal devotion of some of the best minds of the age. In A.D. 150, Galen treated the subject of the teeth more extensively than any other of the ancient authors.

Ætius (A.D. 300) discovered the foramina in the roots through which the nerves and vessels enter.

In A.D. 1100, Albacasis instituted the art of replacing lost teeth by substitutes. Not much was added to this until the eighteenth century, during which the labors of Pare, Hunter, Blake, Fox, Bell and Nasmyth placed the subject on a truly scientific basis. Since then the general scientific understanding has become much more correct and comprehensive, but it has all been done on the lines laid down by these pioneers in investigation.

In 1766 John Woofendale, the first dentist on the western continent, commenced practice in New York, and later practised in Philadelphia. He was a pupil of Dr. Thomas Berdmore, dentist to George III. Two years later, 1768, he returned to England. From this time until 1781-82 there was no dentist on this continent. Then Joseph Lemaire, a Frenchman, Isaac Greenwood, an Englishman, and Josiah Flagg, the first American dentist, appeared and placed the practice of dentistry in America on the truly scientific basis on which it now stands in this country, and made themselves in truth the fathers of American dentistry.

Besides these should be mentioned Dr. James Gardette, a surgeon in the French navy, who resigned his commission and settled in Philadelphia in 1784, and also John Greenwood, a son of Isaac Greenwood, the pioneer just mentioned, and famed as the dentist to President Washington.

From this time on dentists continued to increase in numbers and skill, and made American dentistry famous the world over.

The discovery of the making of porcelain teeth did much toward enhancing the importance of dentistry in the estimation of the public, and increasing the demand for professional services.

After the beginning of the present century the professional aspect of dentistry was more fully appreciated, and many medical graduates entered upon its practice, supplied its literature and fixed its character as a specialty of medicine, and in 1839 the true professional sentiment, under the lead of Chapin A. Harris, crystallized in the incorporation of the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, conferring the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery.

Then commenced a new and bright era in the education of dentists, but somewhat marred, many thought and many now think, by the offering of a partial medical education and conferring a partial degree.

Such is the past of dentistry. The present, as the old Indian said in describing Henry Clay, "his mouth speaks for himself." So dentistry speaks for itself with the tongues of twenty thousand practitioners in America, and many thousands in Europe, and from the pages of sixty-one* professional journals, and from the halls of over sixty dental colleges, and from the pages of a literature filling a library of three thousand volumes.

The future lies either in continuing and perfecting dentistry as a distinct profession, or enlarging it in its relations as a specialty of medicine. The latter I believe to be its proper line of development.

Fifty years ago, Dr. E. B. Gardette, of Philadelphia, published a long and exhaustive petition to medical schools to add a Professorship of Dentistry, and graduate men M.D. qualified to practise the medical specialty of dentistry; and many other leading men took the same ground.

Specialism is in no science more developed than in medicine. The number of specialties are as numerous almost as the parts and functions of the human system. Many medical schools teach well-defined specialties at this time. Among these, the mouth in its dental relations does not appear. If the study of the physiology, pathology and therapeutics of the eye, ear and throat is medical science, and entitled to the distinctive titles of ophthalmology, otology and laryngology, surely the study of the structure, physiology, pathology and therapeutics of the mouth, including the teeth, is also medical science and entitled to its distinctive name of stomatology and to a place among the list of the specialties taught in medical schools.

* United States, 22; Spanish America, 3; Canada, 1; Germany, 10; France, 6; England, 4; Spain, 3; Austria, 2; Italy, 2; Switzerland, 1; Sweden, 1; Finland, 1; Holland, 1; Greece, 1; Russia, 1; Japan, 2.

Dentistry is no longer simply plugging a cavity or pulling a tooth. The educated dentist of to-day treats almost every condition which obtains in the mouth, and no less successfully than graduates in medicine, and in special cases with far more knowledge and judgment. Dentistry has also made sufficient contributions to medical and surgical knowledge to entitle it to respect as a medical specialty. It has given to the world the great boon of practical anæsthesia. A dentist (Lemmonier, 1760) first performed the operation of staphylorrhaphy, and thus opened the way for the surgical remedy for the great deformity of cleft palate. Dentistry devised and perfected the obturator and artificial velum, to supply deficiencies in the hard and soft palate which are too great for surgical interference, or when the patient will not submit to any operation.

Dentistry has furnished the most complete and efficient means for treatment of fractures of the jaws, and made perfect restoration to health and usefulness possible where general surgery has failed altogether. Surely such a record should entitle it to recognition as medicine. The proposition is by no means new, as a little history will show.

At the semi-annual meeting of the Maine Dental Society, in February, 1876, resolutions were unanimously passed declaring a thorough medical education essential to the most successful practice of dentistry; also, that it is expedient and for the best interest of all concerned that existing medical schools should add efficient instruction in dentistry to their curriculum.

At the semi-annual meeting of the Merrimac Valley Dental Association, held in May, 1876, after a full discussion of the subject, resolutions expressing the same sentiments were passed by a unanimous vote.

The subject was brought to the attention of the American Academy of Dental Science, at their annual meeting in September, 1876, by a paper read before them; and upon taking a vote, the Academy unanimously indorsed the same recommendations.

In December, 1876, at a regular monthly meeting, the Cumberland County (Maine) Medical Society considered this subject, and without a dissenting or doubtful voice in the discussion or vote declared for a thorough medical education for dentists, and for affording medical students instruction in dentistry, that they may not be debarred from entering the practice of so important a specialty of medicine. A committee was chosen to consider what action the society should take, and at the following meeting in January, 1877, the following report was made and adopted:

"Whereas dentistry is and should be regarded as a branch of the science of medicine; therefore resolved, That it is the duty of

those having charge of our medical schools to see that suitable provision is made whereby all students attending the same may receive such instruction in this special branch as shall qualify them to commence its practice on their graduation. Furthermore, we would advise that this subject be brought before our State Association at its next annual meeting, that it may take such action as it may deem advisable."

As a sequence of this action, the Portland School for Medical Instruction added to its corps of teachers Elbridge Bacon, M.D., for thirty years a practitioner of dentistry, as instructor in that branch.

The same committee was continued to bring the subject to the attention of the Maine State Medical Association, and at its annual meeting in June, 1877, the following action was taken: "Resolved, That it is for the interest of the profession of this State that provision be made at the Maine Medical School whereby students may receive such instruction in dentistry as shall qualify them for its practice."

In 1881, the American Medical Association adopted dentistry as a specialty in medicine, and formed Section 7, Oral Surgery, which has been well supported ever since, and any graduate in medicine practising dentistry is qualified for full membership in that Association. The World's Medical Congress of 1881 formed a section devoted to dentistry, and each Congress held since has continued it as an integral part of the organization.

In England the candidates for a degree in dentistry are examined by the same Board as the surgeons, and a license to practise is issued by the same body to the dentist and surgeon alike. For fifty years the Massachusetts Medical Society has had members who made dentistry their speciality from the beginning of their practice, and who never presumed to anything else; and within two years new members have been accepted upon the same basis. The Maine Medical Association has several members who were elected upon the same qualification. The Board of Registration in Medicine for the State of Maine has already registered graduates in medicine practising dentistry, and has also registered dentists as practitioners of medicine. The Legislature of Missouri, to neutralize an adverse opinion given by one of the judges of that State, has already passed a special Act declaring dentistry a specialty in medicine.

Such expressions as these show the estimation in which dentistry is held in the opinion of the general public and by the medical profession, and they also make a clear declaration of the duty of medical schools to include dental instruction in the medical curriculum. I might also urge the necessity of a better knowledge among practising physicians and surgeons of the relations of the

teeth to the general system, and of pathological conditions depending on their diseases, but time permits only of its mention.

To make it practical for medical schools to include dentistry in their courses of study, some changes must be made in the present plan of the study of specialties—changes which I have advocated on every suitable occasion for twenty years. To-day no medical school that I know of gives practical instruction in any of the special branches sufficient to qualify a graduate to practise his art successfully. He who would treat the eye, the ear, the nose or the throat must take several courses after his graduation, under special instructors at home or abroad, in order to acquire the manipulative skill to pursue his vocation.

When medical education is organized upon the plan proposed, and each student shall be required to be informed in all the principles of medicine, and shall have opportunities to perfect himself practically in some one specialty, then will dentistry assume its proper place. It will be found that it will take quite as much practice and clinical observation for an ophthalmologist or a laryngologist to acquire practical ability as for a stomatologist, and the seemingly well-grounded objection to making dentistry a part of medical instruction on account of its essentially practical nature will disappear.

That a student can take the medical degree and become skilled in dentistry in four years has been proved by the many who have done it in so many medical and dental schools during the past fifteen years.

President Eliot struck the right note in his remarks at the meeting of the Harvard Medical Alumni Association, which appeared in the September number of the *Harvard Graduates' Magazine* (p. 58). He says:

“No department of the University can be adequately extended and improved under such a restriction as that it shall teach no more than a fair student can learn in four years. I believe that the instruction now given, at Harvard College, for example, is more than a good student could take in sixty consecutive years, if he devoted himself exclusively to following the courses of the College. The amplitude of instruction bears no relation whatever to a single student's capacity of absorption in four years. Just so it ought to be in a university medical school. There should be an extended instruction far beyond the limits of any one student's capacity. This involves, of course, an optional or elective system within the school itself, whereby the individual student should take what is for him the best four years' work, and the faculty supplying an amount of teaching which it would take a single student eight, twelve, or twenty years to pursue. We must escape at our medical school from this limitation of instruction to a prescribed curriculum suitable for any one student who follows it for four years.

"There would go with this enlargement an expansion of investigation work—of what may be called scientific medical work, or laboratory research—and an increase of the corps of assistants, so that the professors of the scientific subjects might each have a staff capable in itself of extending medical investigation. The graduate department of the school would simultaneously increase.

"And now, a third thing our medical school needs, and should have in the near future, namely, a hospital of its own, wholly under the direction of the teachers of the school."

When this principle is fully recognized, and teaching is arranged to conform to it, all difficulties as to the medical education of dentists will vanish. The large increase of dental students and the extraordinary growth of the Harvard Medical School have again brought to the front this question of the proper education of dentists in Harvard University, and a marked difference of opinion is found to exist. The question has as yet been only fairly recognized as open for discussion. It seems to demand a full consideration.

Shall our medical schools educate dentists as medical men and graduate them as such? Professional medical opinion says, Yes. Well informed public opinion says, Yes. A large number of the dental profession have declared themselves in favor of it, and every friend of higher education and skill admits its desirability. Thus all the signs of the times point to the medical standing of dentistry.

Medical schools should claim it as not only their duty, but their right and privilege, to include dentistry in their instruction. They should reclaim dentistry from the custody of partial culture, as medicine, not many years ago, reclaimed surgery from the ignorant practice of the barber and blacksmith.

The plan should be adopted in good faith to supply a better educated class of men for the practice of dentistry. If done from this motive, it will give the general practitioner much valuable knowledge of which most medical men are now ignorant, and it will direct a large number of capable men into a branch of practice where the emoluments are worthy of their attention, and the responsibilities sufficient to call forth their best efforts.

To me the way is very clear. Once the principle that all medical education need not be identical is acknowledged, and that dentistry is entitled to a standing with other branches of medicine, and the work is done; all details would solve themselves. Dental teachers would furnish special instruction for medical students as medical teachers now do for dental students.

Instead of the present dental degree, some other evidence would be furnished graduates similar to what would be appropriate for each special branch taught. The dental schools should continue

as at present, until the medical students taking that branch become sufficiently numerous to guarantee their successful maintenance; then they would naturally pass under the entire control of the medical faculties and become integral parts of the medical schools, the dental degree would be no longer bestowed, and the mistake of 1839 be fully rectified.

Now, does this optimistic view discredit or belittle the efficient organization of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons and the work of its able and faithful faculty, or lessen the importance of this well appointed building, which is dedicated to-day? By no means. Whichever side may prevail, or whichever plan shall be adopted, here the right thing has been done. If the University shall see fit to fully recognize dentistry as a specialty of medicine, and teach other specialties with the same thoroughness as it teaches dentistry, here stands offered them a fully equipped infirmary, suitable to accommodate not only its dental patients, but a complete equipment for an ear, eye, nose and throat clinic, and with the addition of a hospital ward all cases of surgery, however serious, pertaining to these specialties, can be fully provided for. So long as the present plan prevails, as it must for some years yet, this building and equipment is in the line of the greatest improvement, perfect of its kind, complete for the work it has to do.

The dental profession and the people of Canada owe a debt of gratitude to the band of faithful workers which has conceived this enterprise and carried it to such a successful completion.

Long live the Royal College of Dental Surgeons, and the University, and the Government which has fostered it! And amid our rejoicings, let us not fail to remember that greater Government, the mother of us all, on whose domain the "sun of heaven never sets;" and also to render homage and honor to Her Majesty who, for the longest period in the history of the empire, has been the ideal ruler of this great nation, one in whom the world so much admires the "queenliness of the woman and the womanliness of the Queen." "God save the Queen!" (Applause.)

Dr. WOOD—I find it necessary to make a slight alteration in the programme at the present time. The S. S. White Dental Manufacturing Company, of Philadelphia, through Mr. S. A. Craige, desire, I understand, to make a presentation to the College.

Mr. S. A. CRAIGE—Your Honor, Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, I desire to read this letter of presentation:

"TORONTO, Ont., October 1st, 1896.

"*Prof. J. B. Willmott, Dean of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons:*

"DEAR SIR,—I have the pleasure to present to your College on behalf of the S. S. White Dental Manufacturing Company, of

Philadelphia, Pa., with their compliments and best wishes for the success of your institution, one of our latest improved Wilkerson dental chairs, with Watkins head-rest ; also, one new style S. S. White ball-bearing dental engine, for the equipment of the College clinic room.

"Trusting the same will be acceptable,

"Very respectfully,

"S. A. CRAIGE."

(Applause.)

Dr. J. B. WILLMOTT, in accepting the presentation, said : On behalf of the faculty of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons, it is with pleasure that I receive this gift from the S. S. White Dental Manufacturing Company, and I can assure Mr. Craige that the valuable appliances will be put to the best possible use for the benefit of our students. This is not the first time we have been placed under an obligation to this firm. I very gratefully accept the donation.

Dr. WOOD—Ladies and gentlemen, I now have pleasure in introducing to you His Honor, the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario.

His Honor, LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR KIRKPATRICK, on rising, was received with an enthusiastic ovation. He said : Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, after the very interesting addresses that we have been listening to this afternoon, I think very little remains for me to do but to perform the formal ceremony of opening this building for the purpose for which it was built ; but before doing that I must ask for a little indulgence so as to say a few words. I must congratulate the dental profession upon this magnificent structure, which has been erected by them for the benefit of those who are going to study the science of dentistry. With the Honorable the Minister of Education, I think that this, the latest comer in the educational family of Toronto, has the spirit of a lusty, thriving infant. I am sure it will be heard of amongst the educational institutions of the country. The distinguished Professor of Harvard University, who has just addressed us in very eloquent terms, alluded to our Gracious Sovereign's long reign. We thank him, as loyal Canadians, for the kindly manner in which he made reference to Her Majesty's long reign. We are reminded of the many wonderful changes that have taken place in science, art, manufacture, commerce, and in every walk of life during the time Her Majesty Queen Victoria has occupied the throne of Great Britain. This very profession, when Her Majesty ascended the throne in 1837, was scarcely known. Some years after there were only five gentlemen practising the profession in Ontario, while at the time she ascended the throne there were probably not any. A few years before this the only qualification necessary for dentists

was muscular strength and manual dexterity. When you went into the dentist's chair, you went in fear and trembling lest the wrong tooth would be pulled. Now you can go into the dentist's chair without any of that fear and trembling ; you can go to sleep, and when you rise you find the teeth that you went into the chair with—ugly tusks, or so-called teeth protruding in every direction, and diseased—have disappeared, and your mouth is filled with two rows of pearly teeth, "a thing of beauty and a joy forever." It is a very important matter for the community to know that diseased teeth is not altogether a local affection, that it proceeds partly from constitutional causes. Diseased teeth affect most injuriously the digestive system ; they affect the health of a person, as well as the health of the community. Every person should get his teeth freed from disease. Science has advanced so now that we have learned men, capable men, skilled men who can perform that duty with little pain and discomfort. It is a pleasure to get into the dentist's chair now and have your decayed teeth removed. I agree with the words spoken by the Minister of Education when he said that the community will be benefited by this magnificent structure which has been put up and which is so complete and replete with every appliance known for the study of the science of dentistry. Those who partake of the benefit of this institution and go out from the College means that they are going out educated gentlemen. We hope that they will be an honor to the institution and maintain its reputation. I am sure we can congratulate the dental profession for what they have done in the past. We look to the gentlemen coming from this institution to maintain the profession, to show to the public the benefit that is derived from this institution, and that they will do what they can towards elevating this profession, as well as elevating their fellow-citizens. I have nothing more to do than to perform the duty that you have asked me to come to do, that is, to declare the building open and dedicated for the purposes for which it was built. I do so most cheerfully, with the best and hearty wishes for its future success and for the future prosperity of the profession which this building will do so much for. (Applause.)

The distinguished gathering then dispersed after the orchestra had played "God Save the Queen."

NEW DENTAL COLLEGE.—ARCHITECT'S DESCRIPTION.

The building occupies a frontage of fifty feet by a depth of one hundred and six feet, and consists of a high basement and three stories. The style is Renaissance and the materials used are Credit Valley brown stone for the basement, Portage Entry red sandstone for the ground story, and the same stone and red pressed brick for the remaining two stories. The ground story is treated with massive ashlar work with rusticated joints. At the west end is the main entrance with a flight of stone steps with handsome balustrades and a hood over the doorway formed by a boldly-projecting dentil cornice, supported by richly-carved corbels. At the east end is an archway leading to the students' entrance and closed by a pair of ornamental wrought-iron gates. The ground story is surmounted by a dentil cornice, and on the first story is an arcade of nine windows with Ionic columns and moulded arches. The second story windows are grouped and have carved projecting sills and moulded brackets. The whole is surmounted by an entablature with a dentil and modillion cornice and a red-tiled hipped roof.

The interior of the building has been laid out with the rooms in such relation to each other as the practical experience gained in carrying on the work of the College has shown to be most convenient.

The basement contains the laboratories for metal work. They have granolithic floors and are fitted with furnaces for melting metals, and moulding and casting tables. Here are also the boiler room, the students' coat room and lavatory, and the janitor's apartments.

On the ground floor at the front are the Board room and reading room, in the rear the large lecture room, seating two hundred, with the necessary appliance rooms, and in the middle of the building is the general laboratory. The students' staircase is centrally situated on the east side, extends from bottom to top of building, and is reached from the street by the archway already referred to. The general staircase is close to the main entrance, and communicates with the rooms to which patients will have access. The first floor is mostly taken up by the operating room and the upper part of the lecture room. The windows in the operating room are so arranged that there is one opposite each operating chair. The extracting room opens off the operating room, and the clerk's room has communication both with the operating room and the students' staircase.

The second story contains laboratories for histology, technique and chemistry, and the small lecture room. Each of the laboratories has been fitted up with the most modern appliances for the particular department of study for which it is to be used, those in the chemical laboratory being the most elaborate, the tables being fitted with slate tops and a sink to each two students, with hot and cold water. Each student is also provided with a cupboard and a drawer for his own use and a special gas tap.

Gas is also led to all the work tables where it is required, and wash basins and sinks are provided for each laboratory, and toilet rooms for the use of the professors on each floor. The blackboards throughout are of unpolished plate glass. The heating is by low pressure steam and there is a complete system of ventilation, fresh warm air being supplied by indirect steam radiators, and the foul air extracted by a large fan worked by an electric motor.

A room capable of accommodating about fifty bicycles has been provided under the staging of the large lecture room.

The rooms are furnished throughout in polished black ash, including the ceilings, and the fittings, the floors, and the work-table tops are of hard maple. The building is so arranged that there is ample daylight in every part of it. The whole work has been carried out under the supervision of the architect, Mr. David B. Dick, who has been in constant consultation as to all technical details of dental work with the Secretary and the Building Committee.

OTTAWA DENTAL ASSOCIATION.

The first meeting, for this season, of the Ottawa Dental Association was held at the Gilmour House on the evening of September 28th. Owing to the absence of the President, Dr. Chas. Martin, Dr. W. A. Leggo, Vice-President, occupied the chair. Dr. Lyon read a paper dealing with the relations of student and preceptor and the present relation of the student to the profession at large.

After the discussion on the paper, the question box was opened and a number of very interesting minor discussions ensued.

Among the subjects were the amalgam question, anæsthesia by suggestion, manipulation of cements, attachment of rubber to gold, ethics, and a number of others. The Association then adjourned until the first Monday in December.

MARK G. MCELHINNEY.

Original Communications

INTERESTING EXPERIENCE.

By A. ROSE, L.D.S., Peterborough, Ont.

It is with no little diffidence that I attempt the task of writing a short sketch of what has been to me an interesting experience, for publication in a journal so sure to be read and criticized with so much critical knowledge and ability. Once before I tried to gain the attention of our profession through the medium of one of our professional journals, and after carefully preparing a three or four page article on a subject then being very freely discussed at our associations and in our periodicals, I never since learned whether the editor even took time to read the title. I am now, however, of the opinion that though I may have (?) thoroughly exhausted the subject in a manner to have ended all further discussion of it by the profession, had it been published, the length of the article itself settled the question of its publication at first sight—and forever. This time I shall endeavor in as few words as possible to describe an experience that overtook me a few months ago, and seek from someone better versed in the chemistry of the case an explanation of it. I noticed some few issues back, reported in the DOMINION DENTAL JOURNAL an experience of a peculiar nature in connection with an aluminum crown set with amalgam. The circumstances there described so nearly accorded with an experience of my own that I feel encouraged to report mine also. Having been requested by a lady patient to do something to save the root of a lower right second bicuspid from the necessity of extraction, and as quickly and cheaply as possible, I thought of making a crown of a piece of aluminum tubing about the diameter of the root, trimmed and fitted to it and filled, and cusps built on with amalgam. This I did in a short time, and sent the patient away much pleased with my efforts to replace her lost grinder. You may imagine my surprise when the lady returned next morning with a few scraps of something that looked like acid-eaten iron, about the shape of the piece of tubing used to form the crown, but ready to crumble to pieces in her hand. She said a few minutes after she left the office she felt it getting hot and a boiling sensation about the gum, and then the filling seemed to boil and crumble away out of the crown. I concluded that some chemical action took place on the union of amalgam and aluminum in the saliva around them—but do not yet think I clearly understand the

reason for the occurrence. I set to work again, and with tubing, hammer and anvil soon fitted another band to the root, and this time filled it with oxy-phosphate, and find it giving good service and no apparent inclination to give way at any point. Can anyone give a satisfactory explanation of the destructive agency in the first case? If so, I, for one, will be pleased to consider it, and thank him for his trouble.

SELF-CONFIDENCE.

By E. A. RANDALL, D.D.S., Truro, N.S.

Whenever I hear that expression I am reminded of one of my classmates. He was an honest fellow, a good student and a hard worker, but was deficient in that quality, self-confidence.

He held pessimistic views, and was always fearful of being plucked.

He often said to me, in speaking of graduation, "I'll never believe it until I get my diploma in my hand."

Final examinations were over, and he had passed in every branch. The day of commencement exercises was at hand, and we all assembled at the opera house to receive our reward. The diplomas being still in the hands of the lithographer, rolls of blank paper were substituted for presentation.

In turn, my friend went up to receive the long-coveted prize. At last "he had his diploma in his hand," and his joy was complete, but only for a moment. He peeped inside the roll and saw only a blank. A thousand evil forebodings rushed through his mind. Surely he had been plucked after all, and the faculty, not wishing to hurt his feelings, had allowed him to go through the ceremonies, substituting a blank for his diploma.

And so in that hour, when all others were in the height of enjoyment, our pessimistic friend was in the depths of despair.

Abstracts.

Edited by G. S. MARTIN, D.D.S., L.D.S.; Toronto Junction.

DR. S. O. SAWYER, Traverse City, Mich., drills cavities in artificial teeth without the use of diamond, by pulverizing worn-out carborundum wheels, and using with oil on a small bur, ground to a three faced drill, first cutting out as much as possible with a small carborundum disc.—*Ohio Dental Journal*.

IN the Transactions of the Odontological Society of Great Britain appears Mr. J. F. Colyer's discussion of "The Early Treatment of Crowded Mouths." Mr. Colyer lays down as a starting point his opinion that the earlier the treatment of a crowded mouth is commenced the better, for as time progresses the irregularity becomes more fixed and aggravated, and hence more difficult to treat. If room is made for each tooth as it erupts, the case simply resolves itself into the treatment of a crowded cuspid or second bicuspid, whichever tooth happens to erupt last, instead of long and tedious regulation of the six anterior teeth. As to the advisability of treating irregularity by *expansion* or by *extraction*, Mr. Colyer argues in favor of extracting. By expansion of the arch, the liability to caries is increased on account of increased pressure; plates must be worn for a considerable time, this likewise tending to the production of caries. Mr. Colyer points out as an additional argument that the room gained in expansion is apparent and not real, as a tooth moved by mechanical means moves on its apex as a pendulum swings, so that when a number of teeth are moved in this way, the crowns only are forced outward, leaving the roots in their old position; the almost inevitable result being that the teeth relapse on pressure being removed. Where extraction is relied upon for the correction of irregularities (1) Room is gained not only for the crowns, but for the roots of the teeth; (2) The amount of mechanical treatment is lessened, and in many cases abolished; (3) The pressure on the teeth is relieved and a certain amount of isolation obtained, a condition conducive to the prevention of caries; (4) The bite is less disarranged than with expansion; (5) The teeth invariably assume a better direction. The essayist then for purposes of description divides cases into two classes. 1. Cases where the first permanent molars are unsaveable. 2. Cases where the first permanent molars are saveable. In cases of the first class the first permanent molars are kept by some means until the eruption of the second permanent molars. The crowding of the upper and lower incisors is then relieved by the removal of the temporary cuspids. When the bicuspids have erupted, the case of regulating simply resolves itself into finding a place for the permanent cuspid, which is erupting high in the arch. The first permanent molars having been extracted, a plate is placed in the mouth to retain the second permanent molars in position until the cuspid forces the bicuspids back, assisted by the bite. In the second class, *i.e.*, those where the first permanent molars are saveable, Mr. Colyer advises making space by extracting first, the deciduous first molar and then the underlying first permanent bicuspid.

RUBBER DAM.—The unpleasant smell that is noticeable is easily removed, by soaking the rubber in cold water for two or three hours.—*Ash's Quarterly Circular.*

Dominion Dental Journal

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THE OPENING OF THE NEW BUILDING.

Outside of the question whether there should be a Dental College or not, there can be no doubt that the quarters that have been occupied by the College for many years, while the best that could be done at the time, were neither fitting to uphold the dignity of the profession nor to afford the best opportunities to its students. We therefore take this opportunity to congratulate both the profession and the students upon their new home on College Street. We are sure that the gentlemen who compose the Board have every reason to congratulate themselves on the magnificent results attending their efforts to provide a fitting home for the College. Dr. Husband and his Board deserve the thanks of the profession, and especial thanks are due to the untiring efforts of Dr. Wood, the chairman of the Building Committee. We are sure also that they appreciate the efforts of the Dean, Dr. Willmott. While there are those doubtful ones who feel that possibly the doctor has been instrumental in supplying a little extra competition, yet there are none who will say that he has not always endeavored in every way to uphold, and teach his students to uphold, the dignity of the profession of which he is such an ornament.

There have been misunderstandings in the past, and doubtless there will be in the future, in the relations between the College and the practitioners; but the Board is elected entirely from themselves, so that it is in their own hands to have just such harmony as they please, and it is the sincere wish of the DOMINION DENTAL JOURNAL that all may work in unison to the continued promotion and advancement of the profession.

THE BRIGHT SIDE.

Every cloud has its silver lining, and even the overcrowding of the profession has its compensations. Some time ago two of our many correspondents in Ontario wrote us to say that they were devoting some of their time to general literature, and several others, to market gardening. "Literature," as someone remarked, "leads to everything, provided you leave it," and we were not so sanguine of its paying prospects for those who have been seized with the *cocoethes scribendi*. But the first profession ever established was that in which the first man was the first farmer, and there have been several successes achieved in a small way in several lines of agriculture by quite a number of dentists in Canada, and quite a number in the United States. If the overcrowding increases, most of us will have to pull in our horns in the luxuries of our usual lives, but there is no reason why compensation cannot be found in other directions, which will not divert an established practitioner too much from the routine of dental practice. In fact, we would all be healthier and happier and enjoy better and broader views of life if we had hobbies of this sort. If we look philosophically at the events which happen to us, we would escape many a fit of the blues. That which appears hopeless may be truly a godsend, and the dark clouds of life may be just as necessary to our happiness as those of the heavens are to the fertility of the soil. One of our despondent friends was saved from suicide by joining a bicycle club.