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Original Communications.

Hobbies.*

By HAROLD CLARK, D.D.S., L.D.S., Toronto, Ont.

In occupying your attention for a few minutes this afternoon, I have in mind the surfeit of facts and wisdom that awaits you during the ensuing six months, and feel that it would not be unwise, for this once, to keep away from professional topics. Tomorrow you will receive the first beginnings of the load, beneath which you will go tottering to the examination hall next spring, so, to-day, instead of dissertation upon the islands of calcification and their failure to coalesce or the carbo-hydrates and the hydro-carbons or any of the familiar themes that will ring in your ears for years after you leave college, I propose to take up something light in the way of a subject. Before I had a chance to select a topic for this paper someone kindly suggested to me that of "Hobbies," and a responsive chord was touched, for I have always had to plead guilty to the charge of being a hobbyist, and in a brief way I shall endeavor to not only defend but recommend hobbies.

In a way it would appear that the term hobbyist is often regarded as synonymous with a crank—a faddist—a bore, and a tiresome fellow generally, but a little consideration will show, I think, that he is worthy of some better place in our estimation. And right here it might be well to distinguish carefully between a hobbyist and a crank or faddist. The one pursues his hobby for the achievements it holds within his reach. He sees new pleasures, new possibilities ahead, and goes eagerly after them. His hobby is ample company for him. Others may care to know of it, or

* Read at opening of Dental College, October 1st, 1895.

they may not. It matters little to him. But so soon as his hobby fails to give him new experiences or new knowledge, it ceases to be a hobby. It must give place to something else. The crank or faddist gets hold of one idea. He anticipates no enlargement or modification of his idea or fad. It is perfect and complete; it admits of no growth or improvement. He knows it all. It offers him nothing new. Of *itself* it is no company for him. He must buttonhole and bore everybody who does not dodge him. He harps away on his one idea until it becomes a monomania and people point to him, touch their heads and give a significant wink. A hobbyist, of course, may make the mistake of turning a good hobby into a very bad fad. Any useful thing may be abused. A good instance of a hobby being thus degraded is told in connection with the late Bayard Taylor, the writer and traveller. He was at some banquet and the conversation at his part of the table was very much impeded by a pedantic, old fellow who posed as a philologist who knew it all. He kept up a running fire of questions at those about him, asking if they knew the origin of this word or that. Of course they did not and he would tell them. But when he claimed to know the origin of every word in the language it was the last straw for Taylor. He turned on the man and asked if he knew the origin of that word "restaurant." "Why, of course, it is from the Latin '*restaurare*' to repair or restore." "Oh, no," said Bayard Taylor, "that was all right with the earlier authorities." "And pray what origin do the new authorities give it?" "*Res*, a thing—*Taurus*, a bull—a bully thing." That man's hobby had ceased to be an absorbing recreation. It had become a conceit and a fad.

It would seem to be a constant factor, and indeed a very necessary one in human nature, to use up a large part of its energy in the pursuit of enjoyment of some sort or other. And we see humanity deriving its pleasure from all manner of sources between the extremes where, on the one hand, the savage fiend derives his keenest enjoyment from the agonies of another creature, and on the other hand, where one's chiefest joy is found in being able to lessen the misery, and increase the comfort, well-being and happiness of another.

Dr. Munger, in speaking of the late O. W. Holmes, says: "There is scarcely anything the great mass of English-speaking people need so much as the proper kind of enjoyment or amusement. We are a sad race—thoughtful, brooding, severe. Our ancestors were born under cloudy skies, on the shores of rainy seas, and the clouds and mists enfold us still. If we break away from this inwrought sadness and go aimlessly after pleasure, which is an important part of the food of human nature, we are liable to bring up in sensuous excess." But in whatever form we take our pleasure,

whether it be philanthropic work, travel, study, music, athletics, or simply anything that is an aimless, butterfly-like quest for amusement, we human beings must devote a considerable portion of our energy in the pursuit of some manner of enjoyment. And it is with this thought in mind that I feel we may learn something of use by considering the matter of hobbies.

To attain the highest success in the serious side of life from the expenditure of what we may call our working energy, whether it be devoted to mechanical trades, business pursuits, professional or artistic callings, we hear no end of wisdom about the necessity for such virtues as purpose, system, definiteness, concentration, application, etc., and the necessity of avoiding aimlessness or anything that means the dissipation of energy. And if the success of our work-a-day life is so enhanced by system, etc., why shouldn't our pursuit of pleasure be made more successful, more useful and more keenly enjoyable by giving it the benefit of purpose and continuity of action? And this is exactly what a hobby does..

Our dictionary-makers have not as yet recognized the word "hobby" in the sense in which we use it to-day; but, by way of a definition, I think it is generally understood to be the pursuit after some excellence, or skill, or fund of knowledge where the pursuit is followed not for the profit, but for the pleasure derived. It is something, also, that is usually regarded as quite separate and apart from our regular daily avocation.

A hobby may be the absorbing work of a lifetime. The greatest mines of knowledge that have been opened to the world have been discovered by men who have devoted the energy, the skill and even the fortunes of a lifetime to the work, not for any material benefit that might be derived, but simply for the ample satisfaction and reward of success. It is needless to cite examples; the world's history is full of them. On the other hand, a person may give his time to a succession of hobbies. For instance, a boy may for a time be devoted to the collection of moths and butterflies. After a while, however, he reaches the limit of absorbing interest in this hobby, and it gives way to some other; and so on through his life.

I have always great hopes for the lad who, for a time, is so engaged in the collection of foreign postage-stamps that he is willing to sacrifice other pleasures, and even his small pocket-moneys, in his ambition to possess a collection containing every kind of stamp issued; and when this ambition has spent itself, will become just as much engrossed in the collection of birds' eggs, their nests, or the birds themselves, insects, rare coins, or wild flowers. Take such a lad, who from his boyhood has ridden first one hobby; then another and another, and is even now devoting the best of his leisure time and spare energy to some new line of thought, action

or observation ; talk to him, and you will always find him interesting, not only to others, but to himself. You will find that he has developed an individuality ; he has a character that is his own, not one that is made in imitation of and to suit those about him ; he is never lonesome. Emerson tells us : " A man is relieved and gay when he has put his heart into his work and done his best ; but what he has said or done otherwise will give him no peace. It is a deliverance that does not deliver. In the attempt, his genius deserts ; no muse befriends, no invention, no hope."

Again, it is all but impossible for a hobbyist to be an immoral man. Immorality is born of idleness ; it is the result of stagnated energy, and this is hard to find in a hobbyist. His hobby, his play, is work of a pleasure-giving kind, but it is work nevertheless, and it keeps him at a safe distance from temptation.

A hobbyist not only builds into himself a sturdy individuality and a self-reliant character, and stores his mind with general and useful knowledge, but his pleasures are of a sort so keen that only a hobbyist can appreciate them. He that has no hobby demanding the best of his leisure time, but derives his daily enjoyment from the commonplaces that surround him such as social calls, social functions, society meetings, light novel reading, etc., often finds it very tiresome and stupid. It soon becomes the same hum-drum over and over again until his very pleasure becomes dull, stale and insipid. He is then an excellent subject for pleasures of a questionable kind. The predisposing cause is there and well marked, and the exciting cause of a downfall is not slow to find its opportunity. Not so with the hobbyist, for his hobby *is* a hobby because it is always rewarding him with some *new* achievement. He is continually stimulated by the pleasure of *first times*, so beautifully noted by Dr. Holland in one of his books. When a small boy, on approaching a village, he heard for the first time in his life a church-bell, and he tells us that though he had since drunk in the mellow tones from the famous belfry at Bruges they had not half the charm of that first draught of bell music in his early boyhood, and then he apostrophizes :—" Oh sweet First-time of everything good in life ! Thank Heaven, that with an eternity of duration before us, there is also an infinity of resources, an ever varying supply and ministry, and ever recurring First times."

The other day I was talking to a prominent and well-known man of our city, who possesses no doubt the most complete collection of Canadian ferns that exists. " These," said he, " were gathered when I was quite a young fellow ; most of them when I was on fishing expeditions. While my companions were lying about resting, talking and smoking, I was off in search of ferns, and I never shall forget the keen thrills of joy and satisfaction as I added each new and rare variety to my collection."

I have mentioned such familiar examples of hobbies as stamp and coin collection, collection of birds' eggs, their nests, the birds themselves, the observation of their manner of flight, their habits, food, etc. While in Muskoka this summer I saw an example of a hobby for a boy with a mechanical turn. When I chanced to step into the boat-house of a friend, I found his son, a lad of sixteen, hard at work on the finishing touches of a miniature yacht. The walls of the boat house were covered with other models and pictures of yachts of various sizes and designs. A few days later I was sailing past the island and found the same boy out in his rowboat following two young yachts that he was testing for speed over a course. He had quite a library on the subject composed of books, magazine articles, newspaper clippings and pictures in profusion of all kinds of craft, and he could talk like an old salt of the parts of a ship and their uses, the advantages of and objections to the different kinds of hulls and rigging. No doubt the most important event for him of the world's history for the year was the impending contests off Sandy Hook.

But these are perhaps the hobbies of immature years. As the boy grows older these will give place to others. If he has a taste for the beautiful along with his manipulative skill, he may take up amateur photography, which will offer him a fascinating field for his energy, skill and study so wide that he can never hope to have explored it all. And right here in this example of photography we have an instance of the difference between a pursuit when followed for the pleasure and when followed for the profit derived. The great mass of discoveries that have caused the immense advance in the art of photography in recent years has been made by amateurs. One of the best amateurs in this country is an accountant in one of our wholesale houses, and his leisure time is of necessity limited, and yet, a short time ago, one of our leading professional men told me that he wished he knew half what this amateur did about photography. The one does everything by rule of thumb, the other has studied the chemistry, the optics, etc., involved and works intelligently. The one is constantly confronted by the question, "Will it pay?" The other scarcely counts the cost either in time or money if only he can attain his desired object. It is generally conceded that the best and most artistic work in photography, whether it be landscape, genre pictures or landscape slides, is done by amateurs. And after an amateur photographer has given up the hobby there remains with him a faculty for seeing beauty and attractiveness in objects which, but for his hobby, would have been passed by as uninteresting. He has the power to see the merits of photographic work that are quite lost to the inexperienced.

A person may devote his leisure time to drawing and painting

or what is commonly known as art. He not only has the pleasant satisfaction of feeling himself grow in his power to represent objects, scenes, faces, etc., with pencil or pen, or in oil or water-color, but by encountering the various difficulties of perspective, lighting, selection and arrangement of the component parts of his subject, he is thereby enabled to appreciate the difficulties overcome and the consequent beauties and perfection when he views a picture of merit. Have you ever stood by an artist in a picture gallery and have him draw your attention to the various charms of some picture which before you had looked upon with indifference? If so, you may know, in part at least, the pleasure it is possible to have for one who has made a hobby of art. He can look upon a picture and derive pleasure of a high order, when others are only wearied by viewing the same work. And this weariness, which is due to ignorance and inability to comprehend and appreciate, is well exemplified every time we are favored with a high-class musical performance. It may be a grand orchestral concert, yet you will surely find someone, and one of intelligence, too, who protests that the whole affair was a night of wearisome noise and clatter. Had such an one made music one of his hobbies, even though he had little or no talent as a musician, and studied something of orchestration, so that he might recognize the voices of the different instruments, and know the spirit or emotion that each has the power to reveal; if he had been familiar with the nature of the man who composed the symphony, and the thought or theme upon which the work was built, he would have been able to experience a pleasure in it he had never dreamed possible. Fancy, if you can, a person listening to one of Shakespeare's plays who knew nothing of them, who didn't even know that such a man as Shakespeare had ever lived. What pleasure could he have compared with one who was a student of Shakespeare and knew the characters acted before him as if they were real personalities among whom he had lived?

Music, to my mind, is an ideal hobby for the working man or woman. It affords a boundless field for work and study, and yet music is always restful and soothing. It seems to cater to or nourish that part of our being that is beyond, or above, or somewhere apart from our material selves, apart from even our mental faculty. Perhaps it is our soul. Max Müller beautifully defines music as a means of expressing feelings and emotions that are beyond expression in words. While all hobbies interest the hobbyist, there is probably none to equal music in making the hobbyist a source of pleasure and entertainment not only to himself, but also to others. The leisure of a whole lifetime may be devoted to music, and yet but a small portion of its treasures can be known to the devotee. The history or evolution of music and the biogra-

phies of its great masters are a subject of exceptional interest. The science of sound in its relation to music is a most fascinating study. And yet we have said nothing of the voice and the various standard instruments, any of which may be a life work.

Many will say that while very fond of music, they are so devoid of musical genius that any study of music would avail them nothing. But take the case of John Curwin, the founder of the Tonic-Sol-Fa system. When a student at college his classmates bantered him over his inability to join in singing the best known hymns and keep in tune. He was *fond* of music, however, and recognized that it was a power for good with the masses. He set about mastering his own little difficulties, and he found the subject so attractive that in a short time it became a veritable hobby, and one which served him to the end of a long and useful life. During his devotion to this hobby, this man, whom nature had equipped so poorly for it, devised a unique system of musical representation or notation that has placed music within the reach of the very poorest classes, and has made England famous in the musical world for the grand choral singing to be heard everywhere, from the large centres to the smallest hamlets on the island. He wrote many works on music, from the simplest schoolroom text-books to the most abstruse works on musical theory and musical acoustics, and the scientific foundations that underlie all music. So simple and attractive did he make music that anyone who undertakes to study it through the medium of his system runs the risk of becoming so infatuated a hobbyist and enthusiast as to earn for himself the name of being a Sol-Fa crank.

A man who has made music a hobby, and has discovered that he has a voice and can sing, or that he is a good executant upon the piano, or violin or 'cello, not only has the most charming of pastimes, but will have a *carte blanche* into homes and among friends that otherwise would be unknown to him.

The spirit or habit of hobbyism comes with advantage in our every-day reading. To simply read this book or that because we feel like reading and the book is at our hand, or someone has told us that it is good or funny, or thrilling or pathetic; to read thus in an aimless wandering style may in a lifetime pass away many an hour, and give one an acquaintance with many authors and their works, but it is so superficial that it passes over the richest treasures and the true merit of all that is read. Have you ever known a man for years from meeting him frequently in some way, and then for perhaps one short week be thrown with him in close and constant companionship as, for an instance, on a holiday trip? What unsuspected mines of information and humor; such interesting views and odd tastes you never dreamed of! You discover that you hadn't known him at all. You feel that you

have made a new friend. Something like this is the experience of the hobbyist who for a time fairly saturates himself with Emerson, or Shakespeare, or George Eliot or Herbert Spencer. He may for a winter belong to an Emerson or a Shakespeare club. His acquaintance, then, with such an author twenty years after will be fresher, more intimate than if he had spent twice the time with them, but in a desultory manner.

In these times, when every trade, business or profession requires that a man work under the highest pressure if he is to be successful, it is of paramount importance that he not only have leisure, but that it be wisely employed. His mind, for the time, must be so occupied that it will be withdrawn from his daily avocation. The faculties or energies that are used in his every-day work should be left to rest and recuperate while other faculties are brought into service for the purpose of occupying his leisure to the best advantage, and here is where a wisely chosen hobby is of great use.

If such a man has no hobby to turn his mind to during his leisure he will probably find his business the only thing that can interest him, and so he keeps at it all the time. I have such a man as a neighbor, and a very good neighbor he is, too. As a business man and a manufacturer he is a splendid success. Just a few years ago he was simply a clerk in one of our dry-goods houses. He now owns two factories besides other business interests, and is rated in the hundreds of thousands. But to be in this man's company for half an hour it is nothing but tiresome. I would defy anyone to be in conversation with him for twenty minutes and keep him off his business. Physically he is almost a nervous wreck. He never reads unless he picks up some light novel on the train, or on a Sunday when he is waiting for Monday and business again. Had that man developed a taste for reading, amateur photography, music or botany, his business wouldn't have suffered, and at least one part of his life would have been smooth and pleasant for him.

A man who is a hobbyist is delivered from an awful habit that makes him a nuisance wherever he is—that is, "talking shop." A man such as I have referred to has nothing else to talk about. Seal his lips to his business and he is dumb. He is like the young rural swain who was walking in the moonlight with the object of his affection. For a whole mile he was possessed of an agonizing desire to say something—anything! and at last in desperation he said, "Are your hens laying pretty well?" Now if this young man had been a reader; if he had come fresh from, say Adam Bede, he would have found the fortunes of the sturdy Adam and gentle Dinah Morris a congenial topic and one that might have made the moonlight mile more prosperous.

Perhaps the most useful feature of hobbyism is the boon it bestows in declining years when a man must, or wishes to, retire from the activities of a lifetime. Take a farmer whose whole life history may be briefly summed in that of a day—hard work, hearty meals, an evening smoke, then off to bed. He has accumulated wealth. The farm is sold. He takes the family and settles in a city residence, where he can rest and enjoy himself. The prisoner in his cell is not more unhappy than he. I have in mind a farmer who did this, and after less than two years city life he bought eight or ten acres outside the city, and now on market days he may be seen hobbling about disposing of his load of vegetables. He works away all day long, unable to enjoy the leisure he had earned for himself. If this farmer, while he was younger and doing his heavy field work, had cultivated in his leisure a taste for some pleasure-giving occupations, we can fancy him in his later and less vigorous years exercising himself during the day as had been the habit of his life time, not, of course, in the field but among his fruit trees and vines, his bees or poultry, and in his evenings he could also continue the habit of his life and rest among his books.

And finally, to come to what is of specific interest in our subject, What may we dentists choose as hobbies? First of all, let us note what must be avoided. It is a mistake to think that any athletic sport can be a suitable hobby. Too much cannot be said in favor of athletics for the needed exercise and pleasure they afford, but to make any athletic sport a hobby means an effort to excel, and any excellence attained, whether in boating, bicycling, running, or what you will, is too short lived to be considered a desirable hobby, and every physician knows that when athletics are pursued for excellence instead of for moderate exercise, harm frequently results. It would startle some of our aspiring young athletes if they could know the percentage of well-known athletes that have died from pulmonary or cardiac troubles caused by severe training and heavy strain.

Such games as are played with cards, dominoes, checkers, chess, etc., may afford an innocent pastime for an odd hour in the home, or on the steamer or the train, but they are poor stuff for a hobby. The reward or compensation for the time spent is very meagre indeed.

The work of a dentist cannot very well be called sedentary while most of his time is spent standing by the chair; but so constantly and immovably does he stand that its effect is much the same as the most sedentary employment, and with it is the nervous strain that is a very constant feature in our work. Few professions, if any, offer such splendid opportunities for ruining one's health. Let a dentist take a cubby-hole for his operating-room, and, if he is

busy or—some of his patients won't come in office hours, make a practise of working nights and Sundays, his bank account may grow faster, while his health lasts, than that of the man who takes reasonable leisure and employs it wisely, but he must not expect to retain his health in spite of such abuse.

A dentist's leisure time may be divided into two parts : his daylight and his evenings. During the daylight at his disposal his profession demands that it be occupied in the sunlight and fresh air with reasonable exercise, and his mind given to what is both interesting and pleasant. I have already mentioned amateur photography. This I regard as an ideal hobby for a dentist in the summer time. In fact, in the winter he is busy making prints, lantern slides, transparencies, etc., from his summer's work. Many the pleasant recollection I have of days spent with my camera strapped to my wheel or in my canoe on a cruise. It is a pastime that isn't confined to younger years and that becomes uninteresting as one grows older. One of the most successful and most enthusiastic amateurs we have in the city is the Hon. A. M. Ross. His venerable head, among many others, may be seen almost any Monday evening during the winter at the Camera Club.

Another fascinating hobby for a dentist that gives him a purpose or an object in walking or wheeling away from the city, is botany. Have you ever walked with a botanist through the fields or in the woods? I have, and I always envy him the interest and pleasure that every other step brings him. Then besides botany, the same benefit and pleasure may be derived from entomology ; the collection of birds and the study of their habits ; from geology or mineralogy—and, by-the-way, one of the very best authorities in our city on the subject of mineralogy, and one who possesses a splendid collection of specimens, is the busy general manager of one of our leading banking institutions. Then, lastly, our evenings can be made so pleasant, so restful and so useful, with music and books. Either will serve you when you are in company or when alone. What can bind a home together and develop the ideal fireside life, so desirable, so beautiful, so poetic, but so seldom seen, like music and books? Richard Edwards, in his quaint old-fashioned English, says of music :

“ When grypinge grefes the hart woulde wounde
 And doleful dumps the mind oppresse,
 Then musicke, with her silver sound,
 With spede is wont to send redress.
 Of troubled minds in every sore
 Swete musicke hath a salve in store.”

But perhaps the best hobby of all is in our books. From the time we sat on our mother's knee till old age will dim our eyes to this world and its cares, books have been and will be our best com-

panions and friends. Dr. Dodds, in his "Thoughts in Prison," says: "Books, dear books, have been and are my comforts; morn and night; adversity and prosperity; at home, abroad; health, sickness; good or ill report, the same firm friends, the same refreshment rich and source of consolation."

The Tricks of the "Cheap Jacks."

By CHARLES C. SUTTON, Island Point, Vermont.

As an illustration of the low tricks to which some practitioners resort to get business, let me mention a few facts, to show the discouragement to those who are anxious to do the honest thing, and the dangers to which an unsuspecting public are exposed.

1. The local anæsthetic humbug. Not even every member of the profession, much less the public, is aware of the exposure made of the nostrums which are advertised and used so much. Dr. Ed. C. Kirke, of New York, showed that the proprietors of these secret remedies told falsehoods as to their composition, and that the percentage of dangerous results in dentistry was much greater than in general surgery; that death had occurred from doses that were supposed to be harmless. There is no secret in the composition of a good local anæsthetic. Dr. Del Solar published the following, to be applied to the gum for one minute, and not to be used with the hypodermic syringe: Alcohol, 98 per cent. fʒ ij; chloroform, fʒ iv; ether sulphuric, fʒ iss; camphor, ʒ i. The dentists who tell their patients that they have the only reliable anæsthetic ought to receive the title of "D.L."—dental liars.

2. Artificial sets. The public gets its knowledge of dentistry from the dentists. If a dentist is unscrupulous enough to make them believe that he has a monopoly of purchase of certain teeth, vulcanite, etc., and that he can do what no other dentist can do—especially the dentist who is nearest to him—he simply tells falsehoods. One party is in the habit of telling his patients that he carves his own gum for teeth, that he invented his own vulcanizer. We would suppose that this would be the very reason why patients would avoid, as neither by education, manners or cleanliness can he offer inducements. But he can offer one inducement—that last resort of the dental quack—*cheapness*, and the public are humbugged by the belief that though they cannot get twenty dollars' worth of hay for eight dollars—unless the hay is spoiled—they can get ten dollars' worth of dentistry for five. Of course they can, too. They can get inferior materials and inferior work-

manship. They can get dirtily-done dentistry, filthily-made sets of teeth, teeth extracted with dirty and infected forceps, teeth filled with dirty amalgam while the saliva is stopped with foul napkins, operations performed in dirty chairs with dirty hands, and infectious diseases carried from one mouth to another. These Cheap Jacks cannot afford to do anything else, and they do not know enough to do any better. One of these parties was lately asked by a patient why the red rubber showed so much between the joints of her set, and was told that it was "an improvement to strengthen the set, and it will fill up with food and be covered"!

Hints From Everywhere.

By B.

1. Wipe your cuspidor with an oiled rag to keep blood and saliva from adhering. Try it once.
 2. Burn all mouth napkins after using. Best way to "disinfect" them.
 3. Wire in lower plates weakens rather than strengthens, unless you solder tails to it here and there, or curve and roughen it.
 4. Try sulphate of copper for pyorrhœa alveolaris. After tartar is scaled thoroughly, pack it down the roots, protecting the mouth with a napkin. Leave it ten minutes. Use bicarbonate of soda to neutralize it, packed with the finger, and used in hot water as a wash. Repeat several times at intervals of three days.
 5. Try marble dust for polishing instead of pumice stone.
 6. Go back to good tough beeswax for impressions in place of modelling compound. It does not "draw" so much. With practice you can do anything with it. Do not over-warm it.
 7. Always color the plaster you use for impressions. Use rouge. Never oil wax impressions. Use soap suds on plaster, and then run fresh water over it.
 8. To polish vulcanite, use fine sand-paper and elbow grease, and finish finally with dry plaster of Paris on lather brush.
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Abstracts.

By G. S. MARTIN, D.D.S., Toronto Junction.

CLASPS AROUND TEETH.—William Loewenthal in *Cosmos* suggests that rubber be flowed over the serrated inner surface of the clasp to prevent the decay caused by the contact of the metal.

STERILIZATION OF DENTAL INSTRUMENTS.—Instruments soaked for a few minutes in a rather warm aqueous solution of ammonia are most beautifully cleansed thereby without detriment to their polish or temper.—*Cosmos*.

DR. L. P. HASKELL says that no further evidence of the uselessness of air-chambers is needed than the fact that full upper plates in all materials are continually inserted without them and successfully. It is rarely ever necessary to make any other change in the plaster model than a slight relief over the hard palate to prevent rocking of the plate.

FAULTY ARTICULATION.—Dr. L. P. Haskell believes that more failures in artificial dentures result from this cause than from any other. In adjusting a denture in the mouth the six anterior teeth should not touch, as this would cause tilting of the plate from the rear. The bicuspid and first molars on each side should meet uniformly, but no pressure should rest on the second molar, especially if the occluding lower molar tilt forward.

WHO SHOULD BE ADMITTED.—The editor of *The Dental Digest* is of the opinion that the first six weeks of a college course should be spent in finding out who of the students are qualified by nature and by training to be dentists, and those who are not should have their fees refunded and be advised by the faculty to seek a more suitable calling; in short, "plucking" should be done at the beginning of a college course rather than at the end.

DR. J. W. FOREMAN, of Asheville, N.C., says that while the textbooks are still teaching the extraction of the second molars for the relief of troubles caused by the lack of room for the proper eruption of the third molar he has never seen a case where this was either necessary or justifiable. By this extraction we deprive the patient of the use of a valuable tooth, and in many cases the wisdom tooth tipping forward is useless for purposes of mastication.—*International*.

VACUUM CHAMBERS.—Dr. Henry H. Burchard, of Philadelphia, has an interesting paper in the November *Cosmos* in defence of the vacuum chamber. He holds that the chamber has an enduring function, and says that this may be proved by temporarily filling the depression with wax, or by noting cases where the wall of the chamber has been accidentally perforated; the result in either case being the almost total loss of adhesion. To be of the greatest service the chamber should be in the area of greatest stability about the centre of gravity, and in shape should resemble the outlines of the dental arch.

PULP-MUMMIFICATION.—Theodore Soderberg, of Sydney, Australia, has an article in the November *Cosmos*, advocating the mummifying of pulps in teeth instead of the usual method of removal, or attempted removal, of all the contents of the canal. After some experiments with the pastes used by Dr. Witzel and Dr. Miller he was led to a modification, which resulted in the following:

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Dried alum..... | ℥j. |
| Thymol..... | ℥i. |
| Glycerol..... | ℥i. |

Zinc. oxid., q.s. to make stiff paste.

This is introduced into the pulp-chamber after its contents are removed, and pricked into the contents of canals by using a Donaldson bristle. After using this paste twelve months in ninety-seven cases he has not had a case of after trouble.

NITROUS-OXID ANÆSTHESIA.—In a paper read before the Pennsylvania State Dental Society and published in *Cosmos* for November, Dr. J. D. Thomas, of Philadelphia, discusses the question as to the effects of inhaling nitrous oxid. His experience leads him to conclude that it is an agent producing perfectly legitimate anæsthetic effects as exhibited by stimulation, intoxication and unconsciousness. So far as oxygenating the blood is concerned it is practically an inert gas, there being no separation of the oxygen from the nitrogen at the temperature of the body, and if the administration is pushed far enough the asphyxial condition may be developed, but this may be counteracted by admission of oxygen or air. As the condition of anæsthesia precedes that of asphyxia, the latter should never be produced, and when it is, can only be attributed to a lack of intelligent understanding of the physiological action of the gas. The dangers of administration are clearly from the production of asphyxia. In cases where the patient is anæmic, very full blooded, a slow breather, or of low vitality from grippe or overwork, great caution should be exercised.

HÆMORRHAGE RESULTING FROM EXTRACTION.—Dr. Otto Arnold, of Columbus, O., dealing with the subject of hæmorrhage at the Tristate Dental meeting, Detroit, condemns the use of violent means for the arrest of bleeding until gentler means have failed. The use of Monsel's salt is not advisable, as the clot, though rapidly formed, is not strong enough to resist blood pressure, and the result is very frequently a recurrence. The use of plugs of wood, cotton, or wax, is, in his opinion, unwise, as by distending the socket great harm may be done. For the same reason he is opposed to the use of cauterly, compress, or bandage. The best results may be attained by using tannic acid, either powder or saturated aqueous solution. His usual method after extraction is to have the mouth rinsed out with hot water. Thus free bleeding is encouraged, and the normal reaction of the tissues is stimulated, resulting in a stopping of the hæmorrhage. If much laceration results from extracting he prescribes :

R. Tannic acid gr. xx.
 Listerine,
 Aquæ dist āā ʒ iv.

Sig. : Apply frequently to the wound. If the patient is known to be a bleeder, the following is prescribed :

R. Gallic acid ʒ i.
 Aqua cinnamon ʒ iii.

Sig. : Tablespoonful every hour until hæmorrhage ceases.

Proceedings of Dental Societies.

Toronto Dental Society.

At the regular meeting of the Toronto Dental Society held at the office of Dr. Wood, College Street, October 28th, Dr. H. E. Eaton read a paper on "Some Elements of Success in a Dental Practice." After discussion of this very able paper, taken part in by Drs. Wood, Willmott, Adams, Lennox, McDonagh, Martin and others, election of officers for the ensuing year was proceeded with and resulted as follows: Hon. President, W. M. Wunder; President, G. S. Martin; 1st Vice-President, A. J. McDonagh; 2nd Vice-President, J. J. Loftus; Secretary, H. E. Eaton; Treasurer, J. Frank Adams; Membership and Ethics Committee, J. B. Willmott, H. T. Wood, W. M. Wunder; Programme Committee, A. J. McDonagh, J. Frank Adams, W. M. Wunder.

Dental College of the Province of Quebec.

The regular session of the College began on the 1st of October, when a large number of the dentists and students of the Province were present. Dr. F. A. Stevenson, Professor of Dental Surgery, gave the opening lecture, which appeared in our October issue. We regret that we omitted to give Dr. Stevenson credit in the October number for his interesting lecture.

Dental Association of N.S.W.

The third annual meeting was held at the Australia Hotel, and was well attended. The President (Dr. Burne) occupied the chair, and stated, on behalf of the Council, that great hopes were entertained of the Dental Bill being brought before Parliament and becoming law during the ensuing year. The balance-sheet showed a credit balance of £73 in hand. It met with general approval. The following officers were elected for the year 1895-6:—President, Dr. Burne; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. H. Paterson and S. Chaim; Hon. Treasurer, Dr. W. T. Halstead; Hon. Secretary, Mr. H. Taylor. Committee—Dr. Arthur Hinder, Messrs. C. C. Marshall, F. G. Hollway, J. Darton, H. S. Newton, E. A. Gabriel, and Byron Ruse. Auditors—Messrs. Corbett and Hebblewhite. A vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to the President, who, in thanking the members for their support, referred to the necessity of the profession drawing closer together, and thus securing a higher status. A vote of thanks to the Hon. Secretary for past services and also the chairman closed the meeting.

Correspondence.

Aluminum.

To the Editor of DOMINION DENTAL JOURNAL :

SIR,—In the November number I find an article on this subject. Let me suggest that aluminum made by the Pittsburg Reduction Company is a pure article. In swaging always oil the dies for any metal. Before annealing again wipe off all traces of base metal; in this way no paper is needed between the dies. For attachment use the "Aluminum Loop Punch," which makes the only complete attachment for the rubber. This metal makes an admirable plate, and is far preferable to rubber in the mouth, with the constant change of process which takes place under it on account of retention of undue heat. Use heavy gauge from 24 to 22.

L. P. HASKELL.

The Question Drawer.

Address all correspondence connected with this Department to DR. R. E. SPARKS, Kingston, Ont., Can. Matter for publication should be in the hands of the Editor not later than the 10th of each month, and must have the writers' names attached, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

To the Editor of the Question Drawer:

SIR,—In the August number of the DOMINION DENTAL JOURNAL, in answer to question 14 Dr. R. E. Sparks says it would be interesting to the readers of the JOURNAL if the querist would give his treatment of the case and the result. The "querist" will restate the case to save those who read this the trouble of looking up question 14. "A lady appears with dead pulp in lateral incisor, tooth perfectly sound. Explained that she had a violent toothache after having been out driving on a very cold day; knew of no other cause. Could that cause the toothache and finally the death of the pulp?" Dr. Sparks thinks that possibly the cold may have been the exciting cause but not the primal, for "why were the other teeth equally exposed not equally affected?" It is my opinion that the severe cold was the "primal" cause, because the patient was absolutely certain that the tooth had not received a blow or any other injury in her past recollection. She was not a sewing girl, so biting thread could not have done it, neither did she remember biting a bone or other hard substance that might injure the tooth, neither had she been out skating to get a fall and thus injure her tooth. Besides there were no traces of osteo-dentine and no observable discoloration to indicate that the nerve had been dying or dead for some time, but, on the other hand, there was every indication of an acute case of pulpitis following almost immediately after the cold drive. When I saw the case, about two weeks after the drive, the pulp and nerve in the root were almost intact, slightly liquefied. The doctor assumed that the teeth were equally exposed, but they were not necessarily, for this tooth—the left lateral on the side of the face the longest exposed to the cold wind—being the smallest, the nerve could the more readily be chilled, not being protected by as thick a coat of enamel and dentine. This may seem a minor point, but it takes very little sometimes to turn the balance of equilibrium between physiological and pathological conditions. Treatment—I opened into canal from palatine surface with a small drill, enlarged opening slightly afterwards, removed pulp and nerve in root canal, syringed out with a weak solution of bichloride of mercury, inserted some cotton saturated with eucalyptol, leaving orifice open, as patient lived sixteen miles out of town, and I feared if sealed up gas might generate and give.

trouble. In about a week patient returned, removed cotton, washed out thoroughly as before, reinserted cotton and eucalyptol, sealed up with cement, left two weeks ; tooth at end of this time was apparently in a normal condition. I then filled root canal permanently with oxy-chloride of zinc cement, forced in by little pellets of cotton, closing the orifice to pulp chamber with gold. Result as reported to me by patient in six or seven weeks afterwards—When she arrived home that evening she began to experience trouble from the tooth, pain increased, gum at apex began to swell, pain continued very acute, “gumboil” formed and “broke” in a very short time, pain of course immediately subsided and soreness went out. I have seen her and the tooth several times since. She has had no further trouble whatever with it, and the tooth remains a splendid color. Now, I have another question to ask : What caused the acute inflammation and rapid forming of the alveolar abscess after filling ?

Yours truly,

“QUERIST.”

To the Readers of the “Dominion Dental Journal.”

A year has passed since we introduced the Question Drawer into the JOURNAL. While the result has not been as great as we had anticipated, or had hoped for, yet we think the experiment has not been a failure. We have received many kind and encouraging expressions from professional brethren relative to the department.

Some of the questions have been of a decidedly practical character and many of the answers exceedingly profitable. Answers have been received from some of the best authorities on the continent upon the subjects under consideration.

We take this opportunity of thanking all who have interested themselves in the department during the past year, and bespeak a continuation of that interest during the year to come.

To those who have taken no interest in the Question Drawer I would say : When you have interesting cases send us questions regarding them. Even though your method of treatment should be better than that of anyone else, let us find out how others are treating similar cases. And when questions appear send us answers. Though you may believe the methods of others superior to your own, much may be learned by comparison.

In this way the Question Drawer may be made one of the most interesting and profitable departments of the JOURNAL.

ED. Q. D.

DOMINION DENTAL JOURNAL

EDITOR:

W. GEORGE BEERS, L.D.S., - - - 47 UNION AVENUE, MONTREAL, P.Q.

To whom all Editorial Matter, Exchanges, Books for Reviews, etc., must be addressed.

CO-EDITORS:

W. B. NESBITT, B.A., M.D.,
TORONTO, ONT.

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All Communications relating to the Business Department of the Journal must be addressed to DOMINION DENTAL JOURNAL, Room 37, Confederation Life Building, Toronto, Canada.

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[No. 12

Inoculation from Cancer.

The distinction which dental surgeons, such as the late Dr. Jas. Garretson and Dr. Truman Brophy, earned for themselves in the United States cannot be said to have many serious followers. The specialty is no doubt a precarious one, and yet if properly sustained, as it should be, by physicians and dentists, the science of oral surgery should be in every sense a profitable specialty.

We notice that in connection with the death of Dr. Burnette, of New York, from cancer, in which it appears to have been proven that the doctor was inoculated from a patient, Dr. G. Lenox Curtis has prepared a report on the subject. Dr. Curtis is a specialist on cancer; he studied in Berlin under Koch, and in Vienna under Virchow.

Dr. Curtis explained that Dr. Burnette shaved himself one morning and had cut his cheek. Later in the day he scratched the cut after putting his finger in the cancerous patient's mouth. In twenty minutes he felt a burning sensation. Some time after that he had a cancer on the cheek. This was treated, but not thoroughly cured. The cancer next appeared in the liver.

"After the medicine was taken by Dr. Burnette," said Dr. Curtis, "the tumor diminished in the course of ten days. The autopsy showed that the cancer was nearly dried up. He died from heat exhaustion. Had it not been for the hot spell Dr.

Burnette, I believe, would be living to-day. We shall be able to prove that a person can be inoculated by the virus from cancer. We have made thorough researches, and find that there is no cancer traceable in Dr. Burnette's family."

Dr. Curtis said that the report would show beyond the shadow of a doubt that cancer could be safely cured by simply giving medicine. "I don't think it is necessary to use the knife at all," he said. "All we gave Dr. Burnette was medicine, and the poison was eliminated from the system."

The operative dentist may find another warning in the above as to the necessity for sterilization of the instruments, hands, etc.

Our Advertisers.

A subscriber tells us that he regularly, each year, binds, in cheap form, *all the advertisements* of the several journals he takes. It is a novel and useful way of supplementing the catalogues published by several firms, and which not only cannot be issued every year, but which will not contain the advertisements of other firms. There is not only plenty of room at the top for the dealers, but it seems there is plenty of room in the middle, and even some to spare at the bottom. The advertising pages should be read regularly.

Vermont State Dental Society.

The above Society will hold its next annual meeting in Montreal, about the end of February or March. In our next issue we will give further particulars. The meetings, socially and professionally, promise to be of great interest, and John, Jean and Jonathan will have "a good time."

Reviews.

Dental Materia Medica and Therapeutics. By JAS. STOCKEN, L.D.S., England. Fourth edition. Revised by LESLIE M. STOCKEN, L.R.C.P., L.D.S., and J. O. BUTCHER, L.D.S. England. London: H. K. Lewis, 136 Gower Street, W.C. 1895. 155 pages. Price, \$1.25. E. M. Renouf, bookseller, 2,238 St. Catherine Street, Montreal, or any Toronto bookseller.

About twenty years ago, the staff of the National Dental Hospital requested Mr. James Stocken to prepare a work on materia medica, suitable for dental students and practitioners, and the first

edition was disposed of in less than four months. The advancements in dental pharmacology led to the issue of two more editions, and there has been an extensive demand for another. Owing to the prolonged illness of the author, he entrusted the present work to his son and Mr. Butcher, and they have produced a volume, almost entirely re-written and revised to date, which has the very desirable recommendation, of omitting all mention of drugs which have become obsolete by the introduction of new and better remedies. No doubt there must be wide difference of opinion as to the merits and demerits of certain drugs. In our own estimation pyrozone has quite superseded the use of peroxide of hydrogen; lysol will replace carbolic acid; the four essential oils mentioned by the authors are not superior, if equal, to the oil of cinnamon. The intention of the authors is, however, a commendable one. Even Brunton's "General Materia Medica," with its eleven hundred pages, is unnecessarily burdensome. The fifth edition of the late Prof. Garretson's work of thirteen hundred pages became wearisome in its verbosity. Students, no more than busy practitioners, want dull amplification. The more concise the facts the easier they will be memorized. The more pithy the statement, the more suggestive and the more practical. The authors have acted contrary to the general rule of authors, and have reduced the fourth edition from 400 to 155 pages, putting everything into terse and plain language, yet not abridged to injure one sentence. It is a neat volume, and can be made not only a student's and practitioner's guide, but the student's pocket companion. As a preparation for examinations it is all that an examiner or a student could wish for. This is not in any way to disparage the excellent work on "Dental Medicine," by Prof. Gorgas, which is now in its fifth volume, and which is the best adapted for those who want to go more minutely into the study of this important branch of the dental curriculum.

Obituary.

Thomas Henderson Chandler.

Thomas Henderson Chandler, A.M., LL.B., M.D., D.M.D., Dean and Professor of Mechanical Dentistry in the Dental School of Harvard University, died at his residence, 72 St. Stephen Street, Boston, Mass., on Tuesday, August 27th, 1895, aged 71 years, 1 month, and .23 days.

In the death of Dr. Thomas H. Chandler, Boston has lost another of her honored sons. Born in the old Chandler homestead at the North End, and the eldest of a family of five brothers, he brought himself by hard and untiring work to a prominent

position among the literary and professional men of this city. His early education was obtained in the old Eliot School, from which he was graduated at the head of his class, with the Franklin medal. He next entered the Boston Latin School, under Master Dixwell, graduating four years later as Franklin medallist and class leader. Harvard's doors now stood open to him, and he entered, after passing the admission examination with honors. His college career was as successful as had been his previous scholastic efforts, and he obtained several prizes for excellence in his studies, and graduated as a Phi Beta Kappa man and president of the Pasty Pudding Club. Having decided to follow the profession of the law, he entered the Harvard Law School, graduating in the class of 1853.

His eyes now commencing to trouble him, he applied for the post of usher in the Boston Latin School, and obtained it through his high scholarship and testimonials to his capabilities given him by Edward Everett, president of Harvard College. In 1858 he began the study of dentistry, a science then almost in its infancy, and some years later studied medicine, retaining, however, dentistry as his specialty. On the organization of the Harvard Dental School in 1869, he was offered the post of adjunct professor of mechanical dentistry, and on the resignation of Dr. N. C. Keep in 1872, he was appointed professor with the degree of D.M.D. *honoris causa*.

The death of Dr. Thomas B. Hitchcock in 1874 left the school without a dean, and Dr. Chandler was unanimously elected to fill the vacancy. During the twenty-one years he held this post, never until a few months preceding his death did he fail in attending a single meeting of the faculty or miss fulfilling a single duty connected with the office. The students all liked him, and his associates all respected him, for he was a man of the most unobtrusive and retiring disposition, which was often carried to the pitch of diffidence.

His literary work consisted chiefly of papers for the different medical and dental journals; an exhaustive article on "Thumb-sucking in Childhood and Its Results" was translated into all the European languages and obtained a European reputation for its author. Translations of two large works on dental caries, one by Leber & Rottenstein, and the other from the French of Magitot, were the chief events of his literary career. In this epoch of push and hurry it can be said of few persons that their work was done slowly, thoroughly and to last. Dr. Chandler's ambition was not to be a shining light, but to use his best judgment, his utmost skill and the greatest care in every task, however trivial, that he undertook. He was a good husband, a kind father, a true citizen, and an honest man.—*Boston Transcript*.

Doctor . . .

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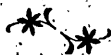
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