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Original Communications

A PLEA FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE NATURAL TEETH.*

By N. PEARSON, L.D.S., Toronto.

The Committee on Programme have assigned the above subject to me for a paper. Had they asked me to choose a subject for myself, this certainly would not have been the title.

That they have done so leads me to think that there is a necessity for something to be said on the subject. Where it exists, why it exists, and to what extent, I am at a loss to determine.

There may be a few, one or two, perhaps a score, of dental surgeons who need reconstructing in Ontario. That there are many I do not believe. In all learned professions there will be found some whose interpretation of the meaning of a word or the sense of a phrase is very different from the generally accepted idea. So we may have those among us who do not exactly grasp the meaning of the word "Dentistry," or more particularly the the symbolic combinations L.D.S., D.D.S. or M.D.S. That these should at the present day appear to be a necessity; that there should exist an idea of the necessity for a plea for the preservation of natural teeth at this stage of professional progress, is to abandon the whole status and retrograde forty years or more, to disband the profession, throw the fat into the fire, throw physic to the dogs, as it were, and seek some honorable calling in which

* Read before the Toronto Dental Society.

spheres of usefulness may open up to us in pursuit of which a just appreciation of our endeavors may be looked for.

Is not the sum and substance, the life and vigor, the brains, the whole physical being of the profession a concentration and embodiment of the principle of the preservation of the natural teeth? To say anything else is a giving away of fundamental principles. I apprehend that thirty years ago there did exist a state of things which, viewed in the light of the present scholastic training, was a deplorable era, marked by the blood of thousands of innocents, which might be termed the age of slaughter—in which time the profession was made up of broken-down tradesmen and mechanics, bounty-jumpers and refugees from foreign parts, farmers and farriers, plumbers and tinkers, who for a few dollars and six months' service were turned loose on the community and permitted to pursue their course according to the light that was in them; and everything was grist to their mill.

Happily, law and order has prevailed over this state of things, and the profession and people are protected. If I were to say that the practices that then prevailed do now exist even in remote localities to any great extent would be to beg the question and set up a straw man to be able to bowl him down. I do not believe so. Yet I am led to believe, by the action of the committee in the choice of this subject, that there does at the present day and generation exist somewhere in Ontario one or more of those fossils or pupils of the extinct race who believe that their mission is to mutilate humanity from mercenary motives. I do not expect to teach them any better; that would be too much to expect of them. As a rule, they do not attend conventions, since they "know it all now." It is easier on their conscience to stay at home and feel right than to learn better and not be able to do better. The only hope we have of them is that they will soon die and make room for civilized and enlightened beings to take their places.

Where do these people exist? Do we find them in country places, or in the towns and cities? Or, Why do they exist? There must be a demand for them, or do they create the demand?

I hold the idea that every graduate in dentistry is by virtue of his qualification an educator. To the extent of his interpretation of the technical teachings of his college days, he must be responsible for his acts and manipulations, which must be reflected in time by the community either to his credit or damage. If by a careful consideration of a certain case a satisfactory conclusion is arrived at, and a monument of skill and durability is the result, he has commenced to educate the community to his advantage. So according to his leading he may expect to find his patrons following, and if we find an isolated community given to false teeth, the chances are that the dentist is a rubber worker.

In, large communities, we find all sorts and conditions of humanity, the rich, the poor, the educated and the ignorant, those from rural districts and the city bred, these call for different classes of the professions to deal with them. They differ in tastes and inclinations. One has the idea that false teeth are the perfection of life. Another has a longing for lots of gold to show. Many let their teeth decay because it's cheaper to have the new ones, and so on all through. There is a difficulty here in discriminating conscientiously, and yet there ought not to be.

In rural districts, perhaps to a greater extent than in cities, a dentist may reflect his ideas more upon his patrons, for if he is the only representative he may be decisive and firm, argumentative and convincing in just the degree that his inclination leads him. If he is an artist in rubber, false teeth is the result, and I am afraid that frequently this result is from indifference or inability, sometimes perhaps from the financial standpoint of the patient, and not from a correct measure of the state of the teeth. I apprehend that there is a tendency in all country places for improvement on the old method of sacrificing natural teeth on account of the effect of the superior education at present obtainable at our college and the good taste and ability to indulge it by the prosperous farmers and artisans making up these districts, and aside from individual cases, which prove very little, there is no doubt a change for the better in the way of saving natural teeth. It does not come within the province of such a paper as this to discuss ways and means of saving teeth, of the ability of doing so, of the various arguments as to the wisdom of doing so under varying circumstances. These points are left to the intelligent operator to decide in each individual instance for himself and to act according to his conscience. What the writer expects to do is to introduce the subject from a personal standpoint and invite discussion and criticism, and thus lead up to a consideration of the many points involved. The subject is so wide, so big, so important, that a whole week could be spent, and the whole range of the curriculum gone over from genesis to revelation.

Let me ask you a question right here, and let each one of you be prepared to give me an answer of some sort. I know each one of you will have an answer, and each one, perhaps, a different one, according to his practice, subject to local or personal qualification. The question is, When am I justified in using the forceps?

Is it in infantile age, and with the temporary teeth? No, decidedly not. Not under any circumstances until the age of the child indicates that the time for action has arrived, which to my mind is when the new tooth is ready to take its place. More harm may be done at this age by premature removal than by delaying too long. Judicious treatment, and filling, if possible, is

always to be resorted to at this age. Have a mind of your own and a policy to pursue and carry it out, and be ready to take the responsibility on your own shoulders without regard to parental or childish whims.

In removing temporary teeth, I have fallen into the habit of operating chiefly with my fingers, or by an incidental application of a probe or excavator, and very seldom, indeed, using a forceps, rather waiting until such time as they are not a necessity. Is it in the case of the sixth year molars that I am to begin malpractice, to do evil that good may come of it? That is my opinion of removing sixth year molars. To be or not to be, that is the question, whether 'tis better in the mind to suffer the stings and arrows of present troubles, than to fly to evils that we know not of.

No dentist is able to determine what the result of premature extraction of a sixth year molar is going to be upon the undeveloped maxillary; the facial derangement is more than he is able to foresee.

After years of careful observation and study of many cases in regulating, by myself and others, where these teeth have been sacrificed and when not, I am strongly convinced that there is an injudicious and wholly unnecessary sacrifice of good teeth here. I may have to admit that once in a while a case is presented where extraction is advisable, but this is the exception, while too many make it the rule. It is the shortest way out of a difficulty, the easiest way to settle the question. No account of the future years of lost usefulness, no consideration of facial expression, of the possibilities of a contraction of the maxillaries or of a deviation from the plane of the grinding surface by the future arrivals enters into the consideration; it is simply expedient to extract, and that ends it, for the time being. No account of the future ever appears against us, no ghosts of the slaughtered innocents appear to trouble the conscience or rob us of repose. Notwithstanding all this, the principle is wrong, conceived in iniquity and born of ignorance, practiced too much, and ought to be discontinued. Nature never provided a more fitting object for man's use at a more opportune time in a better plan than this same tooth, and am I, the learned and intelligent fellow-being who, by choice in a scientific specialty, and who is referred to by reason of my standing and experience, justified when I say, "I can do nothing for you," or am I justified when I say, "Oh yes, I can do so and so, but I do not choose to. I could save that tooth for a few years, but ultimately you will lose it, and it's better to lose it now; later on you won't miss it much." This looks like prostitution to me. I can't do it, and I don't do it. I save the semblance of a six-year molar at all events for six years and until nature provides another to take its place to carry on the great work for which they are so vitally

essential, which you all understand, and as much longer as skill and modern advanced dentistry may enable me to. Use your utmost skill in the case of these teeth, without regard to remuneration or desire of the patient, and a crown of glory awaits you. A duty awaits you and you must not shirk it. It does not excuse you to say that it is ulcerated, or the nerve is dead, or the patient is poor or ignorant. Save the tooth and put it down to charity, and cover a multitude of sins otherwise laid against you. As far as individual cases of extracting are concerned, as they are presented to the dentist for relieving present pain and where a denture is not immediately the question, I apprehend that there is no difference of opinion that all modern operators do make a decided attempt, and generally successfully, to save such a case. The point of hesitation and debate is generally when a few of the teeth are very much in need of treatment, or in case of a few good ones remaining and the others more or less involved in doubt as to the advisability of attempting their salvation. In the light of present progressive dentistry we can scarcely be excused in our action if we recommend a resort to extraction, except in cases of badly decayed roots. I hold a strong prejudice against removing sound roots, preferring to fill even these, where they cannot be crowned and protecting the soft tissue and upholding the alveolus as long as possible. A healthy root may be serviceable for years, especially so after treatment and filling or capping.

Looking at the esthetic effects of removing teeth and restoring by factory made articles, I presume that many will consider me wild when I make the assertion that it is a physical impossibility to restore or reproduce the natural expression to a face when once the roots of the teeth are removed; yet I make the statement and challenge the artist in dentistry who imagines he can get up and say so. It can't be done. The canine eminence cannot be prolonged on the outside of the maxillary sufficiently high without interfering with the free motion of the lips. As soon as the roots of the six anterior teeth are removed there begins a change in the jaw too high up for any artificial contrivance to be placed for the comfort of the patient. It may be possible that this is the reason why our English brethren do not, as a rule, remove the roots when about to introduce an artificial denture, and if so, I commend them for their good taste from an artistic point of view, while from a sanitary or economic point, perhaps there is not so much to be said in its favor.

My faith in the dentist of the present and of the near future is unbounded as to their action in regard to saving teeth. Everything is promising. Their inclination is in that direction; their education is directed in that way; public taste is being directed more in that way. Humanity calls them to do so, progressive ideas must

prevail, and the time is coming when the forceps will be a quarterly or semi-annual issue. This will be brought about by honest, intelligent application. Honest endeavor and individual enterprise will help the public to see the folly of making unnecessary sacrifices. Honest dentists will help to make honest and intelligent patrons. Intelligent and honest patrons will not be rummaging newspapers to find a cheap-John to extract teeth (gas free until 1st of next month), and celluloid plates for \$10.00.

Unfortunately the curse of dentistry to-day is this system of advertising pursued by a few unscrupulous and dishonest, mercenary yet legalized men, who are prostituting the profession for selfish gain, and debauching the needy, ignorant and impecunious with the idea that they are giving them good dental service while the opposite is the case, for as they are appealing to their lower and worse natures to expect good work for unremunerative prices, they are depriving them of the better services of higher class skill and artistic results.

ASSOCIATIVE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC.

By B.

The newspaper press, as a rule, cannot be expected to rid itself of the idea that dental advertising cannot be overdone. It is one of the profitable sarcasms of publishers to assert that the professions think their dignity in advertising depends, like that of a life-guard, upon inches. It sees no indignity in a quack lying by the yard in its advertising columns. It would be against its "principles" to let them lie even by the line in the editorials. It condemns the ethics which medicine and dentistry exact, because it deprives it of much advertising, and it condones some of the dirtiest ethics in journalism. It knows that the quack is a fraud. It knows that the loud advertiser, as a rule, is a liar, and uses the public press to deceive and defraud. It knows that no eminent or honest practitioner needs to let the world know through the press of new remedies or exceptional facilities. These professions do not give their patients the chemical constituents of a new drug, or teach them the etiology of disease. It is not necessary that patients should know whether it is better for the physician to give them a powder or a pill. It is not possible to inform the public on the relative value of the materials to be used in mechanical dentistry, or the best methods of application. If the public in any sense are ignorant of the functional value of dentistry, they owe most of it to the fact that they get their education from the quack adver-

tisements of the press. Respectable dentists cannot afford to neglect the best means and methods of serving their patients. Personal confidence in the practitioner is sufficient. The quack in his self-glorifying advertisement tries to destroy that confidence. The profession may know him personally and professionally to be a scallywag. The Board of Examiners know, if any one knows, the extent of his ability, or rather inability. And the fraud knows that the public cannot know. Individually we cannot, if we would, compete with the professional liar in the public press. But it would be proper and effective, if the Provincial Boards would spend some of their surplus funds in official education of the public. The press would then probably take sides. It would largely depend at first upon "inches." Bye-and-bye it would depend upon public opinion. Whoever will devise prompt and effectual methods of educating the public in opposition to quackery will deserve a monument to his memory. But our associations must not forget that newspapers are not published for philanthropy alone. The press is not responsible for the statements which appear in its advertisements. The field in that way is a fair one and needs no favor. Official and respectable declarations should win.

Proceedings of Dental Societies.

TORONTO AND BUFFALO DENTISTS.

A joint meeting of the Toronto and Buffalo dentists was held at Niagara-on-the-Lake, July 18th.

The meeting, which was held in the Pavilion, after a sumptuous repast at the Queen's Royal Hotel, was called to order at 1.30 p.m. Dr. Stainten was appointed chairman, and Dr. Eaton secretary. Those present were as follows: Drs. Stainten, Butler, Lowe, Wright, Eschelman, McMichael, Miesburger, Kessel, Heckler, Boswell, Grove, Allen, Wettelauffer and Robinson, of Buffalo, and Drs. J. B. Willmott, Wood, J. F. Adams, Wunder, McDonagh, Capon, Clarke, Riggs, Price, Zeigler, Trotter, Sparrow, W. E. Willmott, Swann, McLaughlin, Bansley, Martin, Waldron, Snellgrove and Eaton.

Dr. Heckler, when called upon to state the object of the meeting, explained that it was firstly to become acquainted with each other, and secondly for mutual improvement.

A paper was read by Dr. Allen, subject "Cataphoresis," which was very much enjoyed by all present. The discussion was opened

by Dr. J. B. Willmott, after which it became general. Discussion closed at 3.10 p.m.

A motion was made by Dr. Heckler to the effect that the Dental Societies of Buffalo and Toronto form a permanent organization with the necessary officers, to meet yearly for a two-days' session, with a programme consisting of papers and clinics.

An amendment was moved by Dr. J. B. Willmott and Dr. Eschelman, that it be not made a permanent organization, but that a similar meeting to this be held next year, and that a committee of five be appointed by the chairman to complete arrangements. Carried.

The committee appointed was as follows: Drs. J. B. Willmott, J. F. Adams and Eaton, of Toronto; Drs. Allen and Lowe, of Buffalo.

Meeting adjourned at 3.20 p.m.

H. E. EATON, Secretary.

ONTARIO'S DENTAL COLLEGE.

For years many of the members of the R. C. D. S. of Ontario have been looking forward to the time when they would have a college building of their own.

This is no longer a prospect or a hope, but an accomplished fact.

Both the building and its furnishings are of the most approved and up-to-date character. In order to effect this, two separate deputations of highly qualified and deeply interested members were sent at different times to investigate and copy the leading and useful features of several of the most recently built and equipped colleges of the United States. The consequence is that having profited by the experience of our neighbors, taking advantage of all that was good, new and useful in their colleges, and having received suggestions, deliberated and improved on any arrangements that were not just as thorough as desirable, on the 30th of September we will have the formal opening of as complete a dental college as any organization can boast of.

Prominent men of Ontario, not of the profession, and leading professionals of the United States, together with, we trust, the great majority of the members of Ontario, will participate in and be present on the 30th to make the opening in keeping with the dignity of the institution.

The building, which is of stone and brick, is neat and modest in architectural design, solid in construction and with general plans arranged for convenience, comfort and utility. The object of the management was excellence, and without fear of successful con-

tradition we can say that object has been fully realized. It presents to any one interested in dental education, a very profitable subject for inspection.

As has already been intimated, it has been arranged to couple with the opening the annual meet of the Ontario Dental Association, and on September 30th, October 1st and 2nd to give a united programme that to miss will be a lost opportunity, but to enjoy will be a rare treat that seldom comes our way.

We earnestly solicit a very full attendance, that it may in every respect be a very memorable meeting. Programmes and notices will be issued in a few days.

Belleville, Ont.

J. A. MARSHALL.

Abstracts.

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

MUSTARD.—In the surgical operating room of the Buffalo General Hospital common ground mustard is now used in preparing the hands for operations and in sterilizing the surface preparatory to incisions. It is an excellent disinfectant and deodorant and it is by far the most effective of the vegetable antiseptics.—*Dental Headlight*.

ERRORS IN SPEECH AMONG DENTISTS.—The editor of the *Ohio Dental Journal* rises to protest against the loose way into which many dentists have fallen in speaking and writing on professional subjects. He instances such errors as saying alveolus when we mean alveolar process, fissure instead of groove or sulcus, nitrate of amyl for nitrite of amyl, ulcer instead of abscess, bacilli instead of bacteria, ptomaines instead of toxines, and the indiscriminate use of the terms antiseptic and disinfectant.

IN preparing a tooth for the reception of a porcelain crown (Logan or Richmond), before excising the natural crown, if you will take a piece of French rubber tubing, about one-eighth inch wide and a little smaller than the tooth to be crowned, carefully work it up on the neck of the tooth and as close to the gum as you can get without causing too much pain, allowing the patient to wear it forty-eight hours, you can then face the root off underneath the gum without laceration, hæmorrhage or discomfort to your patient, which I consider quite an advantage in doing a nice piece of crown work. If natural crown is broken off, build down with cement sufficient to give room to adjust rubber tube.—*Dr. F. E. Judson*.

PAINLESS REMOVAL OF PULP ENTIRE AFTER REMOVAL OF ARSENIC.—Wipe out with a fresh solution of dialized iron and place in cavity a small pellet of cotton, saturated with tannin and glycerine (sat. sol.). Seal in with gutta percha; after ten days you can remove the pulp whole, without pain or hæmorrhage.—*H. H. Silliman, Dental Office and Laboratory.*

GLASS can be drilled quite easily with an ordinary steel drill, in the dental engine, if the instrument is kept moistened with a solution of turpentine and camphor. By the same means, cavities can be inserted for the filling of artificial teeth. In this operation it has been my custom to grind away with the corundum wheel as much of the tooth as I desired to contour with the gold and then cut the retaining shape with the drill. Although this method is not one of recent origin, it may oftentimes be found exceedingly useful.—*M. G. Jenison, Minneapolis, Minn., in Ohio Dental Journal.*

HOT WEATHER AND CHILDREN'S DENTITION.—Dr. J. C. Storey, in the *Texas Dental Journal*, discusses the causes of the great mortality among children during the period of teething, giving it as his belief the high death rate is not so much due to teething during the hot months as to injudicious feeding, allowing the infant to take into the stomach food which cannot be digested, but remains an irritant, causing the diarrhœa so often fatal to the child. A healthy child, born of a healthy mother, fed on mother's milk, until it has teeth enough to eat solid food, should have little difficulty in erupting the necessary teeth. While contending that normal dentition should not produce irritation, yet the essayist is aware that there are many cases where surgical interference is demanded and when given produces immediate relief.

EFFECTS OF CLASPS ON THE TEETH.—There is not the slightest doubt but that the clasps are destructive to the teeth they encircle, although it is a question whether that destructive influence could not be reduced very considerably if not altogether avoided, were the patient to exercise a greater amount of care in scrupulously cleaning the inside of the clasps. To do this effectually the clasps should, in the first place, be highly polished on their inner surface, and when the case is removed at night, as it always should be, if placed in a tumbler of water, along with a small piece of ordinary common washing soda, the tenacious deposit usually adherent to them is dissolved, and it can then be readily removed and the case rendered perfectly clean by a liberal use of soap on the tooth brush in the morning.—*H. Rose in British Journal.*

The *Stomatological Gazette* reports a clinic given by Dr. R. H. Cool, at a meeting of the Stomatological Club of California, the operation consisting of the removal of salivary calculus, cleansing and polishing the teeth, using iodine, pulverized pumice stone, chalk, silk ligatures, wooden points. This is considered by some to be the simplest operation in dentistry, but Dr. Cool says he finds very few of his employees have any idea what cleaning a set of teeth means. The best astringent he knows is the thorough removal of all foreign substances beneath the gums. He uses iodine evaporated to one-third, making it three times as strong as the officinal tincture; where deposits cannot be removed, use lactic acid. As an antiseptic solution for instruments, Dr. Cool uses one per cent. trikresol. No point or stick should be used a second time, because pyorrhœa is infectious, and for the same reason the Doctor objects to brushes.

TREATMENT OF PULPLESS TEETH.—By Dr. J. J. Grout, Rock Rapids, Iowa, read before Northern Iowa Dental Society, September, 1895. When I have a pulp to destroy, I use a paste of arsenic and creasote, applying from 1-60th to 1-120th of a grain, according to the size of the pulp and the ability of the patient to present himself for treatment. Where practicable and possible I apply tannin and glycerine after the pulp is devitalized and leave it six to eight days, when I extract the pulp entire with a broach, cleanse the root with pyrozone and campho-phenique thoroughly dry, moisten the canals slightly with eucalyptus oil, pump chloro-percha to the ends of the roots and follow with gutta percha points. Where the pulp is putrescent, I follow a little different course of treatment. After removing all septic matter possible with pyrozone, and drying, I introduce on a shred of cotton :

Carbolic acid,	-	-	-	-	-	1 part.
Oil cloves,	-	-	-	-	-	2 parts.
Oil cassia,	-	-	-	-	-	3 parts.

Seal this in with Gilbert's stopping, leaving it from two to ten days as indicated, then fill as above described. Judgment should be used in all cases as to amount of paste necessary, length of time it should be left in the tooth, what medicament should be used later, general conditions of the tooth, and the patient's ability to present himself when needed, etc. But in each and every step be conscientious and thorough. I always use the dam when possible. I also use root drills, burs and sulphuric acid to open up the root canals, when, in my judgment, they are indicated. No arbitrary set of rules can be laid down for the treatment of all cases. My advice is, use as little medicine and as few treatments as are consistent with good and thorough work.—*Dental Digest*.

DR. DAVID (*Journal de Pharmacie et de Chimie*) gives the following as the composition of modeling or impression compound :

Stearin, - - - - -	25	grams.
Copal, semi soft, - - - - -	25	grams.
Talcum, powdered, - - - - -	50	grams.
Carmine, coloring, - - - - -	0.5	grams.
Oil, rose geranium, - - - - -	6	drops.

—*Cosmos*.

THE LITERARY SIDE.—Under the title, "The Literary Side of our Profession," Dr. Wm. H. Steele, in the *Dental Register* deals with the advantages that would accrue to the dentist if he early formed the habit of systematic professional reading and writing. The young dentist starts out frequently with good resolutions in this respect, but as his practice grows and other interests crowd in, the reading is dropped, and he becomes a "back number." Dr. Steele uses as his text Bacon's famous words, "Reading makes the full man ; speaking makes the ready man, and writing makes the exact man." When the "back number" is asked to read a paper at a society meeting, he says, "I can't write ; I have enough ideas, but I can't put them on paper." Neither can a good crop be produced from an uncultivated field. Reading is the great cultivator of the human mind which prepares it for literary production, and it is impossible for one to be a good writer without being a reader. The truth of the third part of Lord Bacon's saying, "Writing makes the exact man," becomes apparent at once to the man who prepares a paper for any purpose. He arranges his thoughts, consults his authorities, and mindful that he will have to bear criticism, lops off the unnecessary word and retreats from the untenable position. Our dental journals offer good training ground for the young writer, and every young practitioner should avail himself of the advantages offered (for unless we begin writing when young, unfortunately we will not take to it when old) and contribute one or two articles a year upon some favorite subject which he is willing to take the time to investigate. As before said, he will be well compensated for his time and labor. When a man makes up his mind to write, his professional life assumes a new phase, the dogged treadmill of everyday sameness is gone, he has something to think of while pursuing his daily routine, he takes a new interest in looking for new features, his powers of observation and classification are receiving cultivation and his mind will grow and expand like a well-watered plant in the summer sunshine. The dentist located in a small country place thinks often that because he is not in the city, his opportunities are not so great for observing and keeping pace with the latest as his city brother ; but Dr. Steele points out

that as "necessity is the mother of invention," and the country dentist thrown more on his own resources, with no dental depot at his command, is often developed in originality in a way that is not possible in the city. Slip a note-book into your pocket, sharpen your pencil, and begin your notes on some subject that suits you. Add a stick of timber here and there, as you find it, to the frame until the skeleton is complete; then clothe it from time to time as you have the leisure, and next year, when some member of the executive writes you for a paper, don't say "I can't write." It is too lame an excuse. Every one has some good thoughts that stagnate for want of expression, for as the poet says, "Thoughts shut up want air, and spoil like bales unopened to the sun."

DR. H. H. BURCHARD, of Philadelphia, contributed a paper to the American Dental Association, a report of which appears in the June *Cosmos*, on "Some Principles of Bridge Work." No one, he suggests, is justified in practising bridge work unless he possesses an exhaustive knowledge of the surgical aspect of dentistry combined with the skill of a finished mechanic. Is a bridge demanded by the conditions present?—and not, Is it possible to apply one? There are two aspects of this variety of work, one mechanical, the other physiological. Under the first are included the laboratory art of the prosthetist, together with all considerations of mechanical resistance to stress, and the effects of stress as expressed in the movements of the abutments of the bridge or any part of it. As each tooth in a denture is fitted by position, structure and support to sustain a certain amount of strain, force in excess of the normal is a menace to its integrity. The construction of bridge work should be in accordance with the principles of engineering, and should be viewed as a bridge supported at two or more points designed to bear safely a calculated amount of strain. Some of the devices called bridge work show a disregard for the simplest principle of mechanics. Many examples, such as bar anchorages and extension bridges, invite failure by their reckless disregard of these principles. Bridges which have weak support, either of number or condition of the abutments, should have the masticating surface lessened to correspond. The physiological aspect includes the surgery of all the vital relations, not only the present conditions but the possibility or probability of enamel decalcifications, caries or eburnitis, any grade or variety of pulpitis, pericementitis, gingivitis or stomatitis. Using as an abutment for a dental bridge any but sound roots is equivalent to an engineer building foundations for a bridge in a marsh without piling. Bridges should, in this respect, be so constructed that any possibility of ferments and fermentable material lodging in pockets would be impossible, and also that by contact of any part of the bridge with the soft tissues irritation should not be caused.

Correspondence.

TOO MANY DENTISTS?

To the Editor of DOMINION DENTAL JOURNAL:

SIR,—I think you struck the nail on the head when, referring to the fact that over one hundred and fifty new candidates for licenses to practice in Ontario are in the college, you remarked that there are already more dentists in Ontario than can make a decent living. When we see well-educated men calling themselves professional men publicly advertising to make a set of teeth cheaper than a pair of boots; when we see the departmental stores able to get licentiates of Ontario to demean themselves by joining in the competition with the barbers, butchers, etc., and filling teeth for forty cents a filling; when we see the few getting fair fees, and the very many getting fees for which it is impossible to honestly serve their patients, there can be no question that Toronto—as all Ontario will have!—has too many dentists. When we compare the cost of living and the cost of materials to-day, and the great accession to our implements and appliances, with what they were twelve years ago, it needs very little knowledge of arithmetic to compute the inevitable result to the practitioner. If this is to be the result of our education, there is something wrong, and while I do not see how the college could be closed, as some have suggested for a few years, I see no reason why the matriculation should not be raised, the fees and the time increased. Those who feared that the Patrons of Industry would force free trade in dentistry, have now got pretty good proof that even in the more important matters which concern themselves they have not, and cannot get, power in the province, and if they are not able, with all their wits and wisdom, to help themselves, they can never have the influence to do harm to the profession. I know that you have always maintained the importance of education; and I recognize too the worth of the work of our teachers, but one of two results must surely follow: either the profession will be so much more overcrowded that it will degenerate into a trade with trade methods and trade customs, or a good proportion of those who are educated, finding no scope in Canada, will be lost to us as citizens. Neither of these results are desirable, and I doubt if the most partizan Patron would wish either of these results to occur. Why cannot a limit be made as to the number of students to be received each session?

Yours,

ONTARIO.

WHAT JEAN BAPTISTE THINKS.

To the Editor of DOMINION DENTAL JOURNAL :

MONSIEUR,—Ma fren' tol me dat you geeve chance for dentiste speak sum leetle word bout too mooch dentiste. Bien! I geeve you one proof. Quebec province she fine countree for de poor man, and dat's reason why we all poor. But me no feel glad, because we are too much big convent and church, and so mooch people dey pray all de time and dey do no work. Now I make no quarrel meself wid de priest et de nun so long as dey mind dere becseness. Joost now de politique go fast, and de priest go slow, because he find dat Liberal tink dey go heaven if dey want to vote for Laurier all de same, and de French dey no fool any more. Dey want be no French, no English, but all Canadian. But de dentiste got big trouble wid de nun. De Grey Nun of Montreal for many year dey have fine dentiste chairs, and de teet, and all de fine tings, and dey have some nun who fill de teet and make de teet on de plate, and dey have do becseness like dat for feefteen year. Of course dey take no monie, because dey work for demselves. But dey break de law all de same, and dey take de becseness from de French dentiste, and do not geeve dem one *sous*. Deese nun dey very good ladies, and dey very rich and dey got mooch house and land, and dey pay no tax. Bien! me sick of dat, and I tink de Board write nice polite leetle lettre to dem, to say dat dey break de law and dey must stop. Dey must mind dere own becseness, or, bye-bye, tings will come in Canada joost like in France, and dere will not be so many priest and nun, and den dere will be better chance for de dentiste and de oder poor people. And I tink we go heaven all de same. I take me chance meself. Ma cousin, she say, "You be priest, Jean; dat good for de stomach, and you av no trouble." But me ax her back, "No, tank you," and I wink one eye, and I make de laff. Eff de dentiste beesness she no go, I go on de farm. Hoorah! pour le compagnie!

JEAN BAPTISTE.

Reviews.

Transactions of the American Dental Association. Twenty-fifth Annual Session, August, 1895. Publication Committee, Drs. Geo. H. Cushing, E. T. Darby, A. W. Harlan. Philadelphia: S. S. White Dental Manufacturing Company. 1896. Pp. 380.

Always readable. From two papers we make a few extracts applicable to our own condition to-day in Canada. Dr. C. W.

Stainten, on "Ought the Formation of Dental Schools to be Limited?" expressed the general regret at the multiplication of dental colleges, and "before it becomes too late," suggested proper checks and remedies. The doctor estimates that there are 25,000 dentists in the United States; an average of population to dentist of 3,134. This is too low an estimate, as is proven by statistics which follow: Buffalo's list in the city directory of 1894 included 90 dentists, where there should have been 125; this year it is 112, and should be 140. New York reports 700, while she really has over 1,200. The estimate is that there are over 32,000 dentists in the United States, and thousands more coming. In 1886 there were 24 schools, with 503 graduates. In 1895 there were 52 schools, with 1,208 graduates. "The overcrowding of our ranks in any locality is prolific in cheap and nasty practitioners, and the lowering of the standard and character of our specialty. The over-production of dentists is not a good thing either for us or for the public." The doctor advocated raising the standard of admission and lengthening the time; but the multiplication of schools "is the chief danger." The existence of so many schools was a seduction to young men. Dr. Louis Jack, on "Should not the Increase of Dental Schools be Restricted?" showed that the increase of schools was proceeding at too rapid a rate. There are over 150 medical schools in the United States, and it does not require any stretch of imagination to perceive the danger which lies before us. The dental degrees of the United States are being discredited in Europe, for the reason that the preliminary requirements of the student and the curriculum are not sufficient. Dr. W. C. Barrett, on "Whither are we Drifting?" thought men pessimists who declared that the colleges were turning out graduates too fast. He asserted that the colleges are "year by year digging the stream deeper, and making it wider in a much greater ratio than they are peopling it with occupants." He looks for the time when there will be 50,000 dentists in the United States. He recognizes the growth in importance of dentistry "at a rate that no educated body of men in any avocation has yet emulated." But the doctor rather destroys that opinion by the statement that "the American Dental Association comes the nearest to being a *true National Association* of any society that we have among us," and that it has, out of 25,000 dentists, *only 250 members!* The doctor suggested a number of great societies.

Dominion Dental Journal

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A RETROSPECT AND A PROSPECT.

Any one familiar with the history of dentistry in Ontario from the eventful January of 1867, when a meeting of dentists called by Dr. B. W. Day, of Kingston, was held in Toronto, cannot but admit that our profession has kept pace with the general progress of the country. The first Board of Examiners was composed of Drs. Day, Chittenden, Wood, O'Donnell, Scott, Callendar, Relyea, Lalonde, Kahn, Meacham, Elliott and Leggo. Of the original members, Drs. Chittenden, Scott, Bowes, Bogart, Lalonde, R. Reid, Lemon and Snider, are dead. On the 23rd of January, 1868, there were on the roll forty-five active members, fifteen incipient members (having had less than five years' practice) while only ten absentees had taken the license. Of these seventy, Dr. H. T. Wood, one of the charter members, and Dr. J. B. Willmott alone remain in harness. Our experience goes back into early student life, when Dr. Brewster, of Montreal, had, seven years previously to the passage of the Ontario Act, been in active correspondence by circular with the dentists throughout Ontario and Quebec, and met with warm encouragement in his proposal for the incorporation of the profession, but which was impracticable at the time. The seed, however, did not fall on stony ground.

The last announcement of the Royal College of Dentists will give but a faint conception of the untiring labor which has

devolved upon a comparatively few men. Seven hundred and seventeen names appear on the list of licentiates, of whom seventy-six are dead. There are in the freshman, junior and senior classes of the school about one hundred and sixty students, with the live certainty that with the more attractive facilities of the college a large increase will be made. The work done by the teachers in the past has been creditable in the highest degree. When we compare the opportunities students enjoy in Ontario to-day, with the restrictions and difficulties previous to 1867, it must be recognized that Ontario has little, if anything, left for complaint. In some of the features of practical prosthetics and the treatment of orthodontia, we are not disposed to believe that the best work and results of to-day are superior to those of a quarter of a century. Vulcanite and low fees have brought about some degeneracy in spite of many new-fangled notions, which have not in any instance accomplished any better results than in the olden time. However, every dentist knows what scientific and practical leaps have been made in other directions, towards the conservation of the teeth and the alleviation of pain; yet every one knows, too, that even in these directions hasty generalization and no little humbug have been rife, while in the matter of ethics we are to-day steering towards a dangerous whirlpool, from which only the small minority can hope to escape. Comparatively speaking, dentistry in Ontario, in a practical sense, stands equal to that of any country in the world. Most of the problems have been faced and settled. Those of the present are chiefly ethical. What will those of the future be?

The increase in the number of practitioners has been more than commensurate with the increase or demand of the population. Dr. J. G. Adams, of Toronto, whose philanthropic work among the poor deserves commendation, has convinced his hearers that the teeth of school children, and especially of the poor, are "universally unhealthy and neglected." His appeal is noble and unselfish. But young men do not enter the professions as specialists in philanthropy. While it is true that it falls to the duty of every dentist to do some measure of charitable work, we cannot feel that we have a divine mission to rob Peter to pay Paul, or that it is in the interest of ourselves or our families, that we shall lay up all our treasures where moth doth not corrupt. Landlords and tax collectors do not accept promissory notes of that character. It is but common sense to believe that young men who propose to spend three or four years, and seven or eight hundred dollars, to get a profession, expect to get it back twenty-fold. And, as a rule, they will get it back, by fair means or foul, by ethical in patience, or impatient and impenitent breach of ethics. Teachers may be faithful in preaching and in practice. The

majority of our practitioners abide strictly within the limits of professional ethics, but here and there quite a number have taken fright, like weak minds, and have openly resorted to quack methods of drawing business. Fees have gone down fifty per cent. One departmental store in Toronto is in public competition with the infirmary of the R. C. D. S. for twelve months of the year instead of six. Everywhere men stand dazed at the prospect. Many have lost all the backbone they ever had, and do not use the legitimate means at hand to expose the fraud of the lying advertiser. The public now think that dentistry is not only one of the few most lucrative means of earning an easy living, but that, in the past, its members were a close monopoly of pirates. The quack finds it to his interest to deepen that impression, and he resorts to advertising methods which respectable men cannot imitate. Consequently he has that field largely to himself. Contrasting the present common methods with the very worst of the past, we may augur that of the future. When three years ago we predicted that the departmental stores would add dental as well as drug departments, we were pitied for our folly. The worst has not come, and yet we encourage the over-crowding which has brought about this state of affairs! We regard it as a serious and direct injury to the public whom we serve, and the profession which we should respect.

REVOKE THE DIPLOMAS.

It is perfectly legal, when a man gets a diploma, for the University which gave it to revoke it, and publish the act and the reason for revocation. No respectable college would grant its degree to a man who deliberately sought it for the purposes of fraud and imposture. No respectable faculty would knowingly consent to sign their names to a parchment for a dental pirate. Every college should place conditions of forfeiture before permitting students to sign the register. When proof satisfactory is produced a diploma should be cancelled, the name struck off the register, and the fact published. The idea is not our own. It has often been proposed, and was emphasized by Dr. Stockton at the American Dental Association.

SHORTHAND WRITERS.

We would like to get the names and addresses of dentists in the several provinces of Canada who are able to write shorthand rapidly enough to report the proceedings of meetings.

OVERCROWDED PROFESSIONS.

Even the Church is finding that it has a plethora of pastors. At the Methodist Conference held in Toronto, Mr. J. J. Maclaren, Q.C., gave notice of motion expressing the opinion that the needs of the home work would not likely require, in the near future, the reception of so many candidates for the ministry in that department, and that the Special Committee of the Conference be appointed to consider the question and report, etc.

In the issue of June 13th of Canada's splendid weekly, the *Saturday Night*, of Toronto, the editor, Mr. Sheppard, forcibly shows that we are over-educating our youth, and adds, "We have, at public expense, been making preachers, doctors, lawyers, teachers *for the United States*, of thousands of our best young men. We thoroughly understand that they cannot have a career in Canada under present circumstances. Yet we proceed to educate them at great expense, *in order that they may go abroad.*"

Privately expressed, it is the opinion of the leading teachers of the professions that they are overcrowded, while there is no gain-saying the statement that the splendid higher education of our Canadian universities—than which there is no superior on the continent—has tempted many a young man whom nature meant for a farmer, and who would be all the better farmer if his education had been more directly in the line of his life work. Teachers and professors themselves will admit that the professions are congested; that over-competition has disastrous results; that many of these young men are forced to go out of the Dominion to make a decent living. We cannot conceal these facts from ourselves, and yet, while admitting them, we do our best to increase them! We observe the meanest and most immoral methods used to attract "business," even by members of our body who are not quacks, some of whom, in fact, would infinitely prefer to act ethically, if they could see the way to live in the meantime. To do justice to several who have resorted to quack methods, we must recognize the truth that no man should starve, or make his family suffer out of respect to an ethical code. While we will never yield to the belief that these methods are necessary; and, in fact, while we are convinced that in the long run they do not pay, commercially speaking, it is not surprising that some practitioners think such a belief a fallacy, and in sight of excessive competition, do those unethical things which they should not do. We can keep quacks from getting a license, but it is doubtful if we can keep licentiates from becoming quacks, or using quack methods. When the Queen City of Canada can produce mean commercial

departmental stores, which not only cut into the very life of trade and commerce, one of which has blossomed forth as an open competitor with the cheapest dentistry—such as it may be—in the Dominion, it is suggestive of the results of overcrowding. The poor beggars who lend themselves to that sort of business ought, perhaps, to be pitied. No doubt their services are just what they value them at. The serious question is, Where is this professional degeneracy to stop?

UNREGISTERED ASSISTANTS.

If we should occupy a whole number discussing this question, *pro* and *con*, it would not make legal what is illegal, or *vice versa*. For what special purpose were the Acts of Incorporation framed? In England we have seen that all sorts and conditions of people, druggists, opticians, etc., claimed to have been practising dentistry before the dentist's Act became law. We have disposed forever of all such claimants in Canada; but in every province there are unregistered assistants and proprietors of mechanical laboratories, most of whom commit breaches of the law openly or on the sly. As actions are to be instituted against several of these parties, it is well to remember that the Acts of Incorporation were intended to protect the public from the fractionally qualified dentist as much as from the open quack, as well as the regular licentiates, and within the limits of their indentures, the regularly registered students. All outside the pale of the two latter have no more right to engage in any department or branch of dentistry "for hire, gain or hope of reward," than have jewellers or opticians the right to advertise as dental laboratory "experts." The legal question has nothing whatever to do with the special or general skill a man may possess. There is no longer "free trade" in dental practice in this Dominion. The letter, as well as the spirit of the law is as plain as the noon-day sun. No person who is not a registered member of the dental corporation has a right to practice, "or perform any dental operation upon, or prescribe any dental treatment for any patient, for hire, gain, or hope of reward, whether by way of free salary, rent, percentage of receipts, or in any other form whatever."

It is illegal to employ assistants who are not at least registered students. A case of the kind was recently brought before the courts in Montreal and decided in favor of the Board of Examiners, the offender having practised at the chair. Even attaching a crown or fitting in a set of teeth comes as plainly within the

meaning of the Act as operating. It is proposed to enter several actions to test the legality of the employment of unregistered assistants in any capacity as such whatever. It was never meant to put penalties upon registered students who break the law, and a premium for doing the same thing upon those who are unable to qualify for registration. It is a mockery to suppose that parties who cannot qualify for the registration should have legal or moral rights which registered students, no matter how apt, dare not attempt to enjoy. What would occur if any registered student hung out his shingle, with his name as a "Dental Laboratory" worker? The Board would cancel his indentureship. What right then has even a licentiate to "cover" such practice under the shadow of his own license? If the registered student is under the jurisdiction of the Board by reason of his indenture, the unregistered assistant is still more under the penalty of the law.

If the laboratory mechanic is honest in the pretension that he only works for the dentists, what need has he for flaring public announcements to catch the public eye? He pretends to the profession, whose patronage he seeks, that he does not solicit public patronage. The pretension is not borne out, either to the profession or the public by appearances. No exclusively laboratory-educated mechanic, however skilful, is qualified to judge as to when teeth should be extracted, treated or preserved. His interests are all opposed to any conservative treatment which is not embraced within his very limited specialty. It is, therefore, directly opposed to the public interests which the Boards are in duty bound to protect.

Moreover, there is neither excuse nor need for this state of affairs. We have now in Canada, and are certain always to have, a superabundance of registered students and licentiates who are entitled to whatever privileges or protection the law affords. If any licentiate is so over-run with practice let him give those who are not a share. If his laboratory work exceeds his own ability he can command the assistance of registered students, while there are plenty of young graduates perfectly competent whom he can engage upon reasonable terms. If he is such a "hog" that he wants to grab everything by steering as closely to violation of the law as he dare, then he deserves to be severely dealt with.

It is bad enough to be obliged to witness the congested state of the profession, overcrowded with regularly registered and licensed practitioners, but if they are to have the underhand competition of men who are not able or willing to qualify, yet who take every advantage of flaws in the Acts or supineness of the Boards, then we may waken some morning to find that these people have applied to the Local Legislatures for right to practice dentistry *in their way* without leave or license from the recognized Boards.

A MEAN INSTITUTION.

A certain limited liability company, of Toronto, is one of the meanest monopoly institutions on the continent. It has done much to degrade and distress the business of Toronto and vicinity, and, yearning for new pastures, it has opened "dental parlors," where it has succeeded in getting some mean beggar of a licentiate to make "the \$10.00 sets of teeth, Friday only, for \$5.00," inserting in the public press, with its hodge-podge of millinery and beef-steaks, ladies underwear and shoes, one of the vulgar cuts used by quack dentists to catch the eyes of the reader.

We have been rapped over the knuckles by some of the more zealous friends of dental education, because we predicted some years ago precisely what has happened. We reiterate our belief most emphatically, that there are already more dentists in every part of Canada, than the population demand, and that the certain result of continued over-production must intensify the cheapening and degradation of the profession. Supposing that the professional men, personally, and by whatever influence they may possess, should actively unite to boycott such monopolists, the experiment of making sets of teeth for five dollars might cease. But if they condemn people who go there to save a few dollars in dentistry, and then go there themselves to save a few cents on carpets or roast beef, they deserve to suffer for their inconsistency. Toronto is the Queen City of Canada. But a monopolist seems bigger than Toronto.

STEALING OVER THE FENCE.

The majority of dental students, as a rule, are earnest and honest in their efforts to obtain an education. There are, however, to be found a number who care less for the education than for the license, and who will resort to any possible scheme or subterfuge to gain the latter. We are aware of several suggestions made to students, by which they are led to believe that there are easier methods of getting a license than by the usual appearance before the Boards of Examiners. These suggestions have a show of ingenuity to inexperienced minds. We assure anyone concerned in their manufacture that they are as stupid as they will be futile. The Local Legislatures have done with the business of making dentists by Act of Parliament. No better reason could be given for rejecting a candidate than the fact that he was so conscious of his inability that he feared to face the ordeal of an examination. Students who try to steal over the fence will find it an unprofitable venture.

"IT DOES NOT PAY."

The "Almighty dollar" is the divinity of the quack dentist. It is also that of the impatient man who is not a quack, but who uses quack methods to make a dollar, and who gets into such a degenerate moral condition that he would die if he would be decent. There are men practising dentistry in Toronto, Montreal and smaller places, who care no more for the respect of their *confreres*, or the special esteem of the honorable part of the public than for the confidence of a cat. They will eat dirt to make a dollar. They will lie by the column in print, or by the hour in public. They have no sense of shame in the fact that their *confreres* know they lie. Lying has become as "legitimate" a part of their practice as it is of the departmental stores. It is as much a disease as kleptomania or alcoholism. And yet, apart from the social and professional contempt which surely follows, it does not pay financially. It costs a lot of money to lie in the advertising columns of a newspaper, and the people will never run after bargains in teeth as they tear each other to pieces for bargains in boots. A shop-keeper can, for a long time, attract and deceive the public by bargains in goods which any boy clerk can sell, but the public will not long be imposed upon by dentists who hand over their cheap work to assistants and students; and who, if they do give their personal attention, cannot give sufficient of it to fully satisfy their patients. The "hog" dentist who wants fifty patients a day in his office is invariably an impostor. It may appear to pay, this eagerness for monopoly, and this sensational advertising, but it pays so poorly that these people are rarely able to pay their debts. Look at their record, morally and financially, and show us one case where it pays. There are people who deny that honesty is the best policy, though they may admit it is, perhaps, the best principle. When they discover that honesty is the best policy they make more capital out of their great hypocrisy than they ever made out of their little honesty. To give the devil his due, they become honest—because it pays.

Emphatically, quack advertising and depreciation of one's *confreres* does not pay. It is immoral. *There is no money in it!*

. TURN PAGE 205 OVER.

In the last issue the printer got an advertisement where the last page of editorial matter should have been (page 205). By turning over the advertisement the apparently missing material will be found. The arrangement can be altered by cutting out the page and reversing it.

A WARNING TO MANUFACTURERS.

The editor of this Journal feels it a duty he owes to legitimate and well-known manufacturers and dealers in dental goods to put them on their guard against parties seeking large credit upon the pretence of opening depots. There are honorable exceptions to every rule, but it has always been our conviction that manufacturers should not encourage indiscriminately so-called dental depots, kept by practising dentists. There are enough legitimate dealers with whom business can be done. Some of these people who have been repeatedly refused credit to the extent of twenty-five dollars in Canada have the cheek to ask for as many hundreds in the United States and England ; and the devices to which they resort to throw dust in the eyes of the manufacturers are as ingenious as they are fraudulent. One serious objection made by the profession, generally, to depots kept by practising dentists is, that patients going to some of them have been told, " We have the largest stock in the country. All the other dentists depend upon us for their teeth, and of course *we keep the best and the pick for our own patients.*" We repeat, there are honorable exceptions, but if it is legitimate for one practising dentist it is for every one.

FACILIS DESCENSUS AVERNI.

When a " moderate " drinker finds he is not ashamed to be seen intoxicated in the streets, he ought in his sober moments to reflect that he is fast becoming an irresponsible drunkard. When the man who has been tempted to steal a dollar finds he is planning to steal a hundred, he ought to remember that he is becoming an incorrigible thief. When a dentist who has imitated the quack in his methods of advertising discovers that he is humbugging and lying in the public press, he ought to know, that the harvest he will reap will be the contempt of his *confreres*, and the inevitable distrust of the public.

DR. J. ED. LINE.

Just as we were correcting the proofs of this number our old-young friend, Dr. J. Ed. Line, of Rochester, N.Y., editor of the *Odontographic Journal*, walked into the office on a short holiday tour, accompanied by his better-half. The doctor is socially such a good fellow that the rest of us may envy his wife who has him for her life companion. Professionally, his worth, like a multi-millionaire's wealth, is too well known to need emphasis.

CHICAGO QUACKS AHEAD OF CANADIANS.

Our Canadian quacks and cheap dentists are not in the swim with the birds of a feather in Chicago. Several of the "parlor" fakers who, like some of our own, would be more at home running a gambling den or a saloon, are advertising in the Chicago papers as follows: "Full set of teeth \$2.00. In order to increase our clinic we want every man, woman and child in Chicago to have their mouths examined by the professors of this college. All your work will be done free until August 22. Teeth extracted without pain; teeth cleaned; silver fillings, soft fillings free! Easy payment plan. Union College of Painless Dentistry. Best equipped college in the world. Open nights and Sundays." "Parlors" are not in it with "college," you know.

SENSATIONAL ADVERTISING.

[We think it only fair to give the quacks and those who say they are not quacks, but who cannot say that they do not use quack methods, the benefit of some suggestions sent us, about advertising. We will be glad to receive any other suggestions.—
ED. D. D. J.]

The following additions may be useful:

Give us some credit for being ashamed to put our names to our grand Combine!

We do not glory in our shame. But we must get the dollars, and decency and honesty may be damaged if they get in the way!

You can kick us for ten cents a kick. It frequently relieves tooth-ache by reflex-action!

Wanted! 500,000 old teeth! Fresh cargo in next week from Armenia.

You don't have to wait. You can take your pick of a set of teeth ready-made off the clothes line. You can wear them and change them until you're satisfied.

You can talk three languages with our teeth all at once, and have time left.

You can wear our sets a year and sell them second-hand for more than they cost.

They "bite" so well you can use them for fishing.

Our sets float! You can bathe with them.

We make second-hand sets to fit as good as new in one hour, and no one would ever know you were wearing your "Uncle's."

With our X rays you can get out of your skin in hot weather, hang it over a chair, and get your teeth filled and your bones polished painlessly.

We have no Peers ; we are Original ; we will instruct lesser lights in our unique systems.

After Nature made us she broke the model. Jealous rivals say it was because she was so disgusted. We say it was because she was mad that she surpassed herself !

It was one of our family who built the Pyramids.

We made the crown jewels !

Electric lights inserted in front teeth. You have only to open your mouth to throw light on any subject.

We discovered the world.

We wrote Shakespeare's plays.

We composed the Ten Commandments, and we monopolize the right to break them.

Post-Card Dots.

Where and when was the term "gangrene" proposed instead of caries? By Thos. Bell, F.R.S., Lecturer on the Anatomy and Diseases of the Teeth at Guy's Hospital, in his work on "The Anatomy, Physiology and Diseases of the Teeth."

How early are the rudiments of the teeth observed? About the sixth week of foetal life, when the embryo weighs but fifteen grains, and is about three-fourths of an inch long. The two tubercles of the mandible are found when the embryo is about eighteen days "old," and is about half an inch long.

When was dissection interdicted as sacrilege? By Boniface VIII.

How can I clean my files used for rubber work? Hold them in the jet of steam which escapes from the tap of your vulcanizer when the pressure is above fifty pounds.

What are the salaries paid to the staff of the Dental College of the Province of Quebec? In United States slang—NIX. They enjoy, too, the privilege of paying the expenses of most of their own supplies for lectures.

Please recall the opposition of the clergy to the use of chloroform in 1847. *Ans.*—Sir James Simpson's discovery was denounced as impious, and contrary to holy writ. It was said that its use was "to avoid one part of the primeval curse on woman." Replying to his theological opponents, Sir James said, "They forget the 21st verse of Genesis ii. That is the record of the first surgical operation ever performed, and that text proves that the Maker of the universe before He took the rib from Adam's side for the creation of Eve, caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam."

How is Wood's fusible metal made? Bismuth 15 parts, lead 8, tin 4, cadmium 3.

Who introduced tooth picks? Probably Adam. They were commonly used in the time of the Cæsars. Martial thus ridicules an old fop who, though he had not a tooth in his head, used one.

Ad Esculanum.

Medis recumbit imus ille qui lecto,
Calvam trifilem semitactus unguento,
Foditque tonsis ora laxa lentiscis ;
Mentitur, Esculane :—non habet dentes.

When and where was the first regular dental infirmary for the poor opened in Canada? In Toronto in December, 1869, in connection with R. C. D. S., Ont.

Have any Canadian dentists been in Parliament? The late Hon. Dr. Baillargeon, of Quebec, was in the Ottawa Senate; the late Dr. A. Bernard, first President of the Dental Association of Quebec, sat for a constituency in the Local Legislature. He was also Mayor of Montreal.

1. Why is French so severe and imperative in the matriculation examination for license to practice in Quebec Province? 2. Can one attend the college without matriculation, and get credit for the time passed if he desires to graduate elsewhere? *Ans.*—1. Because French is as much a legal language of the province as English, and Quebecers legislate in the interests of Quebec first, and of the rest of the world afterwards. 2. Yes. We believe this is common in all colleges in Canada, though in order to obtain Canadian degrees the regular matriculation must be passed and registration obtained.

Is it premature to invest in the apparatus used in cataphoresis? Not if you have money to burn, or if you are fond of experimenting. At present no apparatus is satisfactory, but there is every certainty that an effectual and cheap improvement will soon be in the market.