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DOMINION DENTAL JOURNAL.

VOL. V.

TORONTO, JUNE, 1893.

No. 6

Original Communications.

Exemption of Dentists from Jury Duty.

By A. C. COGSWELL, Halifax.

A paragraph in the May number of the *Dental Cosmos*, referring to the above, calls to mind some of my experiences in years past, in a vain endeavor to escape acting as a jurymen. The result was as follows :

The first time I was served with a notice requesting me to appear at the city court house on a certain day and hour, to answer to my name and to be sworn in as a jurymen. On examining my notice I found that an error had been made by writing "Albert" instead of "Alfred"; so, waiting patiently the time named, I presented myself at the court house, and on hearing my name called, I enquired of his Lordship the Judge if the name called was intended for me, or possibly it may have been for some other party, as the name in the summons and my name were not the same. So on that ground I was excused from serving, owing to my name not being correctly given.

The second time, the following year, I was again served with a correct notice, names properly spelt, and little chance of evading the summons this time. As quite a number were to be called, in case some should not appear, I arranged with the crier to call my name last, and if not required I would then have a chance to escape. And so it proved; my name was omitted, not being required. Escape No. 2.

The third time came some three years after—another notice to serve. I pleaded before the Judge my exemption under the Provincial Act exempting medical men, firemen, surgeons, etc., and presented my diploma as a graduate and a surgeon dentist. All was of no avail; the Chief Justice ruled that it did not apply to dentists, nor was there any special Act exempting those of our profession from serving on the jury. So I accepted with good grace the learned counsel's decision, and sat on the hard benches for two days, deciding the cases brought before me with my fellow-jurymen as best we could.

At the present time all dentists are exempt from serving on juries in Nova Scotia; and so, after years of struggling against opposition to dental legislation, in 1891 the profession secured an Act incorporating what is now known as "The Dental Association of the Province of Nova Scotia," with certain powers and privileges. Under this Act of incorporation the Legislature has given the members of the dental profession the same exemption from serving as jurymen as those of the medical profession, and thus securing the long-desired legislation. The following is the clause inserted in the Act: "The privileges and exemptions conferred upon physicians and surgeons by the laws of this Province are hereby granted to licensed dentists." And as *no* dentist can practise in this Province *unless* he is registered and has secured his license to practise, and as we feel that our patients have a prior right to our services and skill as specialists in alleviating pain and suffering at all times, while equity might exempt us in special cases, yet the law places us in a *better* position, and we claim our rights equal with those of the medical profession.

I have no doubt the same privilege will be accorded to every dentist in the United States as well as in the Dominion, *if applied for by legislation.*

Men who succeed in any calling, combine several very important elements of character. Faith, and talent, and ambition, and energy will win wonders of success. Perhaps the great difference among men of all callings, is energy of character, or want of it. It takes nerve, vim, perseverance, patient continuance in well doing, to win a great prize. And the young man who goes into a profession without this pluck and force will fail.

Anæsthetics.

In the early days of my practice I had a novel experience in extracting several teeth. A stalwart farmer (at least in physique) who could tip the scales at fully three hundred, but more timidity could not possibly have been crowded into the same amount of avoirdupois. He had been in my chair before I *knew* him. With almost herculean effort he could face the music for one tooth, but when it came to eight or ten it was too much for his peculiar make-up. He took the chair with dreadful anticipations, and many exclamations, directions, etc., etc. I advised him to lie back in the chair and keep quiet; then I began to lay out the forceps, at the sight of which he fainted. He soon was as blue as indigo and as limp as a rag. My first thought was for restoratives, but my presence of mind saved me and I resolved to avail myself of an extempore anæsthetic, and out came the teeth quicker than the time taken to write this. Looking at him still in a deadly faint, the blood pouring, I could scarcely realize myself what I had been doing. Then I commenced with my restoratives, dashed cold water in his face and put the bottle of ammonia to his nose. I soon had the satisfaction of seeing his eyes rolling about, but dazed, confused; and not until he saw the blood running over the linen did he take in the situation, and immediately his tongue went on a voyage of discovery; and when he found his teeth all out he was a happy mortal. It is the only instance of the kind in all my long practice of fifty years.

From actual practice of nearly hal. a century with the various anæsthetics that have been in use, both by local application, inhalation and by hypodermic injection, I propose briefly to give your readers my observation upon the best anæsthetics in use, the manner of administering, and a few hints about inhalers and the management of patients. In 1847 my attention was brought to the use of ether (which antedates chloroform), the inhalation of which would produce complete unconsciousness, and teeth could be extracted without pain. I immediately ordered a bottle of ether and an inhaler from Buffalo, accompanying which came instructions for the administration, which I thoroughly mastered, and then was looking out for a patient, whom I soon found in the person of an itinerant singing master. Being ambitious and

anxious to introduce this new method, I convened the notables of the town (Belleville) where I was then in practice—the mayor, the sheriff, barristers, doctors, etc. It being the first attempt, and unacquainted with the effect it might produce upon my patient, I candidly admit it was not without some misgivings, but I nevertheless put on a wise look and appeared self-possessed, which instilled confidence in my auditors. The operation was a perfect success, patient delighted, my auditors satisfied, and I proud of my achievement. An intelligent chemist and druggist who had quite a reputation in extracting teeth, remarked, “He was disgusted with his manner of extracting, and would henceforth give it up,” which he did, and I soon had the entire field for fifty miles north, south, east and west. Soon after the advent of ether came in chloroform, that great rival which soon put ether in the shade. Ignorant of its dangerous character, I administered it indiscriminately for many months, indeed, became “the chloroformist”—administered it for physicians in important surgical operations. Like a thunder-clap out of a clear sky came the report that a man had died in a dentist chair at Toronto from the administration of chloroform. I never after ventured to give it without a physician being present. Here let me say that during the administration of any anæsthetic, absolute silence should be maintained. There should be no talking save the gently repeated request of the administrator to the patient to keep his eyes shut and take long breaths.

Before administering any anæsthetic, educate your patient. While preparing the inhaler, address your patient after this manner: “You have some bad teeth there; they must have given you a good deal of pain.” (Next allow your patient to talk.) “You are here to get rid of them, and I am anxious to relieve you, but I cannot do it unless you assist me. You may be somewhat anxious, but it will take away the keenness of the pain; and remember to open your mouth, and I will do my best.” Since adopting this method I have been sometimes astonished at the success. In the administering of ether, no inhaler should be used the second time. Extemporize one by forming a cone of paper or a towel, and drop in a *clean* piece of sponge. When a mother or father comes to your surgery with a child, say five years of age, to have some temporary teeth or tooth extracted, and must be quieted with some-

thing, direct the parent to take the chair and hold the little patient in his arms. Then talk about the weather, etc., and at the same time pour a little chloroform upon a handkerchief and commence to pass it back and forth. Don't mind if the parent gets a little. Soon the child will be sufficiently under the influence to extract all you desire.

When a patient, say between the age of eight and ten, comes with a six-year molar aching, I do not hesitate to give them chloroform administered from a common tumbler. Drop in a napkin, and pour on a *little* chloroform at first, again a little, and you will have no difficulty in accomplishing the object. I have no fear in using it for children. Of course I would not give it to a sickly child. My only diagnosis is observation and a few questions put to parents or guardians.

The most eminent surgeons who have lost patients under the influence of chloroform, evidently failed in their diagnosis, and hence it follows that it is never safe, especially in adults, and should never be given without great care. It is not a question, but an established fact, that there is no means of recognizing the idiosyncrasy except by the actual administration of the drug, and that death is the first intimation of its existence, and that no precaution on the part of the administrator will suffice to avert the fatality. Ether is the agent now in general use, and has nearly if not quite supplanted chloroform, though I never have used it in my practice without the assistance of some qualified physician, though many eminent medical men say it never was the *direct* cause of death. Several fatal cases have been reported from the administration of nitrous oxide, but just how reliable is a question. Chloroform, ether, and nitrous oxide are the only standard agents now in use by the dental profession when inhalation is advised. I copy the following from the *Cosmos* of March, 1876:

"Surgical Anæsthesia in Children. This is the method of procedure at the Hopital des Enfants Malades: At 8 o'clock the Sister administers from three to four grammes (according to the age of the child) of chloral, and the child goes to sleep in twenty minutes. At nine o'clock the dentist passes through the ward and pulls the tooth, at times two teeth, and when the child wakes up, after three or four hours, it is minus its tooth, without suffering, or having seen the dentist."

Those who know the pain of having a tooth extracted, and the

difficulty of doing this with children, will appreciate in chloral a precious agent.

Local anaesthesia is now engaging the attention of the profession, which I may consider in my next.

A Hint.

By T. L. HALLETT, M.D.S., St. John's, Newfoundland.

A pivot tooth which, for durability, I consider second to none, is made by using silver for pivot and backing, and soldering with silver solder, and setting with Weston's cement mixed thin and amalgam soft, about equal parts, and finishing part exposed to fluids of the mouth with amalgam only. The amalgam unites with silver only sufficient to make it all like one piece of metal, while the cement setting quickly avoids any danger of displacement of the tooth. With that setting, gold, of course, must be strictly avoided as backing or pivot.

Selections.

How to Attain Skill.

While heedless and bungling, stumbling along thoughtlessly and carelessly, do you look for success? That geni never comes at such a call, nor can it be caught by such a step. Beginning quite down at the simplest things, and doing these well, we must come up to the greater with such cautious steps as to make each foot-mark a measured tread.

The multitude go at such hap-hazard strides they leave everything in confusion. They jolt against each other, striving for place and power so wildly and indefinitely, they deserve only what they get—disappointment. The man who would have permanent success must get skill, and for this he must first get caution, deliberation and thoughtfulness, as the foundation for patience, accuracy and tact, and each thing must be done well. Then he shall hear the approving plaudit of his Master, "Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make

thee ruler over many things." It is the continued painstaking step by step that brings perfection in character and work, and final skill and success.—*Items of Interest.*

Abscess of the Antrum of Highmore.

J. M. Hunt, in the *Liverpool Medico-Chirurgical Journal*, presents some important points for consideration in an interesting paper on this disease, usually so difficult of early diagnosis.

In the author's experience the so-called classical symptoms, (1) distention of the antrum, (2) swelling of the cheek, (3) infraorbital pain, (4) escape of pus on lying on the sound side, are, as a rule, conspicuous by their absence. The one constant and all-important symptom is the presence of a purulent nasal discharge coming from the concavity of the middle turbinate, and escaping either by the anterior or posterior nares. Pain is, as a rule, present, and is generally intermittent in nature and supraorbital in position. As regards the intranasal condition, diffuse hypertrophy of the middle turbinate, polypoid degeneration or even true polypi in the middle meatus, hypertrophy of the mucous membrane in the neighborhood of the hiatus semi-lunaris, bare bone in the middle turbinate or at the ostium maxillary are to be found in most cases. The author regards it as justifiable to open the antrum in any patient with unilateral purulent discharge coming from the concavity of the middle turbinate in its anterior half, and constantly or at times ill smelling, if there be no obvious cause for the discharge inside the nose itself, such as a foreign body or specific ulceration. He does not regard the trans-illumination of the antral cavities by means of Voltolini's electric lamp placed in the mouth as of much practical importance, although in a doubtful case it may at times be useful. Exploratory puncture carried out through the middle or inferior meatus with a Pravaz syringe or a Lichtwitz trochar and canula is a more reliable method. For purposes of treatment, the best plan is to open the antrum from the alveolar process, either through the socket of a tooth which has been removed or from the alveolar border.

Fermentation.

The process of fermentation is one that has a wide range in nature. It is the means by which existing organizations are broken down into molecular conditions, so that growth and development may take place and even life itself be perpetuated. For instance, food taken into the alimentary canal meets first with a substance in the saliva called ptyalin, which changes its starch into a substance that can be appropriated by those absorbent structures whose business it is to secure the pabulum for the proper nutrition of the tissue of the body. Gastric juice and the pancreatic fluid each contain a peculiar ferment which selects its peculiar kind of food and breaks it up into its elements, so that the absorbents may appropriate them to nourish growing tissue cells. We have an excellent illustration in the rotting of grain where a peculiar substance called diastase, has the property of changing the nature of the starch contained in the grain to an entirely different substance, so that the plant that is to grow from the seed may appropriate it for nourishment.

This class of ferments are called organic, because they are the product of an organized body, but they possess no organization, such as we find in another important class of ferments which are organized.

The organic ferments are chemical but not vital substances, and in the economy of nature they are useful agencies in procuring food and nourishment for organized living bodies, but are not largely concerned in the destruction of living tissue in the production of disease.

The organized ferments have a distinct and definite organization. They, under favorable conditions, exhibit all the phenomena of life. They are capable of locomotion, grow and reproduce their kind. They exhibit many phenomena of animal life, yet microscopic investigation has determined their place as belonging to the vegetable kingdom. They are essentially seeds of plants—a body of protoplasm and a cellular wall or covering of a ligneous nature. Some are capable of destroying life in tissue and creating disease, and are called pathogenic; others are harmless or non-pathogenic. Some need air or oxygen to support life, erobic; others live without air and are anerobic. It is therefore folly to think of all these

germs as destructive. We could not live without them. Many of those we speak of as destructive destroy substances much more noxious than themselves.—*Dr. N. S. Hoff, in Dental Register.*

The Art of Thinking.

Did you ever notice how bunglingly some men think? There is as much difference in the way men use their mental faculties as there is in the way they use their tools. Just as one man will proceed deftly and systematically to the accomplishment of a piece of work with everything conveniently at hand, every motion intelligently directed to the furtherance of the main purpose, and an expedient ready for every irregularity or difficulty which presents itself, so the ready thinker proceeds at once in a right line to the pith of a subject, sifting out the extraneous matter, defining the main point, and bringing to bear on it all his available information. On the other hand, a clumsy thinker will chase a question up one side and down the other, without getting anywhere or arriving at any relevant conclusion.

The mental, like the manual faculties, are susceptible and require cultivation. It is only by practice and continual use that the dexterity and skill of the expert machinist or other manipulator are acquired. However naturally ingenious and handy a man may be, he will lack deftness when placed on work to which he is entirely unaccustomed. To think with facility a man must be accustomed to thinking. It is one thing to let the mind roam about among the things one knows, and another to put it hard at work and keep it there grinding at something you do not know, but want to. It is easy and entertaining to read an article which tells you something which you knew before and which you can indorse, but you learn nothing by reading it. It requires an effort to read an article which contains real information, however plainly expressed. It has to be studied, applied, digested, criticised; the suggestions raised by its perusal have to be followed out to their conclusions; and to conscientiously read an article of this character is a task which a man is inclined to shirk just as a lazy man might shirk a physical task. But compare the man who shirks with the man who reads, and you will find in the first a mental bungler, in

the second the acute and able thinker, the man whose head saves his hands and who is valued, respected, and trusted with the conduct of work and the administration of affairs, and rewarded accordingly. Always read a little ahead of yourself. Read matter which requires an effort on your part to understand. The effort will not only place you on a higher intellectual plane, but the mental exercise will develop a habit of accurate thinking which will be of more value to you than volumes of average matter read only to be forgotten.—*Items of Interest.*

Correspondence.

The World's Dental Congress.

Chicago, May 5th, 1893.

To the Editor of the DOMINION DENTAL JOURNAL:

DEAR SIR,—Your editorial in the May number appealing to Canadian dentists to visit the coming Congress in Chicago is timely. May I be permitted a word in addition to what you have said?

My knowledge of the extensive preparations now being made for this meeting, and my acquaintance with the profession in Canada, both lead me to urge upon every dentist among your readers to avail himself of the advantages offered by this Congress. No man practising dentistry to-day can afford to miss it. I fear many among the profession will be inclined to allow this meeting to come and go without realizing its full importance. The Congress must not be looked upon in the light of an ordinary dental gathering. It will be something greater along all lines of progress than anything ever yet attempted by the profession. No meeting has ever been organized on so broad a basis with so much energy behind it to push it to a successful issue. No meeting ever promised so well as this. The Canadian dentist who comes to the Congress will have the opportunity of meeting the very best men in the profession the world over. No country where dentistry is practised at all scientifically will be without its representatives in Chicago. The enthusiastic responses received by the officers from

all parts of the world indicate an unprecedented interest in this meeting.

And to you—you who are practising dentistry next door to the country where this Congress is to be held, with nothing intervening but an imaginary line—a line which, by the way, should be obliterated entirely, even from the imagination, so far, at least, as professional brotherhood is concerned—to you, I say, belongs the privilege of coming into this Congress as invited guests; of taking part in its deliberations, and showing the world that Canada is not behind in dental thought. This is the greatest opportunity Canadian dentists have ever had for making their influence felt before the whole profession. It is now for them to say whether or not they are to be considered an important element in dental progress. They have everything to gain and nothing to lose by attending the Congress and lending it their loyal support and encouragement. They will be thrice welcome. Chicago is hospitable, and so are Chicago dentists.

But just here, as it occurs to me, let me throw out a hint. While you will be welcome as the free air when you come to Chicago, there are few Chicago dentists connected with the active work of the Congress who will have the time to tell you so. Things are done differently here from what they are in Canada. Everything goes with a rush. Especially at the time of the Congress we shall all be so busy that if we get the time merely to shake hands and say "How are you?" it will be all that should reasonably be expected of us. We propose to mean a great deal by that shake of the hand, but the moment that is done we shall probably have something else to do, and we shall be obliged to do it. That is the way in Chicago—when there is anything to be attended to, it must be attended to at once. Do not take it amiss, and please do not misunderstand us, if, when you come to the Congress, we are obliged to divide up our time between you and a thousand urgent duties. You may rest assured that we shall be glad to see you, and will do all in our power to make your visit a pleasant and profitable one. In the language of the street preachers: "Come one, come all."

Yours fraternally,

C. N. JOHNSON.

Columbia Dental Congress—Chicago, Aug. 14-19, 1893.

As intimated last month, all qualified foreign dentists are cordially invited to membership in the Congress without payment of the membership fee. Qualification consists in being legally in practice, and observance of the Code of Ethics of the American Dental Association. It will, of course, be understood that this disqualifies all advertisers of fees, patent nostrums, exclusive rights, payment of railway fares, etc. The regulations of the Congress require that the eligibility of Canadian dentists be certified to by the honorary officers appointed for the Dominion. The Honorary President, Dr. Geo. W. Beers, desires that dentists resident in Ontario should apply for membership through the honorary officers residing in that Province. Either of the undersigned will be happy to receive applications from dentists in Ontario eligible for membership, and to certify the same to the Chairman of the Registration Committee, as directed by the Executive Committee of the Congress. These applications should be in their hands not later than the first day of July.

J. B. WILLMOTT, *Hon. Vice-President*,
50 Bond St., Toronto.

FRED. J. CAPON, *Hon. Secretary*,
12 Carlton St., Toronto.

Editorial.

The World's Dental Congress.

It is almost unnecessary to remind our professional brethren of the many benefits to be derived by an attendance at the World's Dental Congress. The bringing together of the best and brightest minds in dentistry the world over, of those who are the pioneers in research and investigation, the most skilful in practice, the most loyal and adhesive to the idea that dentistry is an honorable and intellectual calling, will be an epoch in the life of our profession.

It is to be hoped that Canada will be well represented. Especially is it to be expected that Ontario, Manitoba, and the North-West Territories will have a large representation of their practitioners. Let all who possibly can take a vacation in August, and

put in an appearance at what will doubtless be the greatest gathering of dental workers the world has ever seen.

Licentiates desiring to attend must send in their names before the first of July, for Ontario, to Drs. Willmott or Capon, Toronto; for Manitoba, the North-West, or British Columbia, to Dr. Robertson, Portage la Prairie, Man. J. S.

Trinity University and the D.D.S. Degree.

The degree of D.D.S is generally supposed to carry with it a high standing of professional knowledge. Trinity University, of Toronto, for the first time has this year granted the degree. Two of the students who went up for examination, and succeeded in obtaining the coveted parchment, tried for the Licentiate certificate and were "plucked." These young men are now going around armed with a D.D.S. and title of Doctor, and no license to practise.

The moral of this is apparent. Trinity should either increase the standard of her examination, or "take down her shingle."

J. S.

Dr. Barrett and the Congress.

Dr. W. C. Barrett, Editor of the *Dental Practitioner*, has got his back up about the Congress, and he hits it *a la Corbett*. He says: "A mere aggregation of the rag-tag and bob-tail of dentistry, even though it may be numbered by the thousand, will not make a meeting of which we may be proud; yet this seems to be the summit of the ambition of many men who really desire the success of the Congress."

The Doctor hurls a lot of objections at the heads of the chief promoters, accusing them of "whooping and hollering in advance," "spread eagle tactics," "savors too much of the advertising empiric." "This is not to be a gathering of dental quacks." "It is not to be converted into a great circus, with clowns innumerable." "There has been too much of individual posing before the eyes of the world," etc.

It is quite a luxury to discover something wherein we can candidly disagree with our good friend. Somebody had to "whoop," somebody had to be enthusiastic, somebody had to "pose," and

no matter who did it, somebody would be dissatisfied. There is no "quack," or "empiric," or "spread eagle tactics," or "clowns" in the management; and the code of ethics ought to be sufficient to satisfy the most fastidious.

There has been lofty flights of imaginative gush and nonsense about the Fair as a whole. One contribution to last month's *Harper's* indulges in enough rhapsodical rot to have made Sappho sick. But we have seen nothing of this in the organization of our professional share in the Congress. The promoters and other officers will all be poorer men in pocket when the Congress is over. It cannot directly or indirectly profit them, except in the respect and gratitude they will deserve for their unselfish labors. They are entitled to our sympathy and help. The Congress is not at all likely to cause the degeneracy of the best men. It is more certain to elevate the self-respect and inspire the professional thought of many of the "rag-tag and bob-tail."

Eastern Dental Association.

The Eastern Dental Association holds its annual meeting in Cornwall on June 15th and 16th. This Association is a live and progressive organization, and to the energy of some of its members not a little is due in Ontario for the advanced and representative system of government which the profession now possesses.

There should be a large gathering at this Convention.

Above and Below Par.

The examinations for the license to practise in the Canadian Provinces have almost invariably revealed several important facts in connection with dental education in Canada and the United States. The first fact observed is, that where students have received their training in anatomy, physiology, and chemistry exclusively in the latter, they are almost invariably inferior to those who received the same education in Canadian universities. Another fact is, that in the ordinary branches of prosthetic dentistry, our Canadian students, who have been trained in first-class laboratories, are superior "all round" men in this branch, with the one exception, perhaps, of crown and bridge work. On the other hand, our deficiencies in training have always been in the practical operative

work, owing to the lack of clinical opportunities. This one defect is not insurmountable, and there is no reason why Ontario and Quebec should not be able to overcome the difficulties in the way.

A Good Start in Education.

We venture to say, as modestly as possible, that we believe we started better, in the education reforms in dentistry in Canada, than our brethren over the lines—not only in the matter of the matriculation examination, which is much ahead of that demanded by our sister colleges in the United States, but in the exaction of the indentureship system (in Ontario, of three full years; in Quebec, of four years); the application exclusively to laboratory work during the first year, and during the interval of the college work; and the obligation to take anatomy (theoretical and practical), physiology and chemistry, at or under the jurisdiction of a well-equipped medical university.

The average dental student has not been, heretofore, an educated youth. A number have been promoted from the door-bell to the laboratory, and from there to the surgery, regardless of the most elementary education. For the future this is utterly impossible; and experience proves it wise, in spite of the prediction that a genius will yet arise who can neither read nor write. A high standard of matriculation; a good part of the studentship exclusively devoted to mechanical work in the laboratory; as thorough a foundation as possible of anatomy, physiology, chemistry, and more—is the surest hope for the future *personnel* of the profession.

The Congress, August 14-19—Hints.

The timid man, who jumps at his own shadow, and who is always on the *qui vive* for disaster, should not go to Chicago—or anywhere else, for that matter. The very dread of disaster will make him miserable. At any rate, the most thorough precautions have been taken by the police department to look after stupid and careless visitors.

As to extortion at hotels, etc., one has not got to go to Chicago to find it. The extortioner in hotels, boarding-houses, etc., will be

avoided as much as possible by the Bureau of Public Comfort. Hundreds and thousands of boarding-houses have been listed with the Board.

The facilities for readily reaching the Fair grounds are splendid, both by land and by lake. It is wise in all American cities to avoid hackmen. There is not another spot on the face of the globe of the area of Jackson Park, where the Fair is held (about a square mile in extent), where 100,000 people can land or depart in one hour.

Get your bookseller to order, at fifty cents, the official guide (hand-book edition), published by the Columbian Guide Co., 358 Dearborn St., Chicago. It is full of valuable financial and other suggestions. It is wise to read up before you go, not only about the Fair, but about the city. Do not carry much luggage. Everybody will be in travelling attire. Leave valuable jewellery at home. Begin *now* to prepare.

August in Chicago.

The Fair will be in perfect running order for us in August. The obstacles of the opening months will have been removed, the entire routine will have become smoothened, and those who go to Chicago in August will escape most, if not all, of those difficulties which are natural in the beginning of such great undertakings.

The Dental Congress, free to all certified Canadians, ought to be sufficient in itself to draw a large representation from the profession in the Dominion. We shall never enjoy another such opportunity. But apart from our own professional share, the event itself will compensate any man a thousand-fold. It will be a tour through the world in a few weeks, and within the area of a few miles.

As to the climate in August, no one need worry about it who chooses to live like a sensible and sober man. Men who cannot keep cool heads, and avoid exciting dissipations, are in danger in all climates. It is just as well for them to get drunk, and die, and be buried at Chicago. It will save their unfortunate friends a lot of trouble.

The World's Columbian Dental Congress.

Nothing will prevent the success of the Congress. Counter-attractions at Washington and Rome will only tend to crystallize around the idea of the Dental Congress. The first thought was born and utterance given to it as long ago as 1885, the official promulgation of its existence took place in July, 1890, at Atlanta, to be taken up in August, at Excelsior Springs, Mo. All the preliminary work has been done, nearly forty papers have been promised, all of a scientific interest, epoch-making essays that will carry their authors' names not already well known, into the history of the times. The dentists of America, north and south, including the dentists of Canada and Mexico, will bestir themselves to put on a holiday garb and make ready for our visitors and guests. To the dentists of foreign climes, America sends greeting, inviting your attendance at the sessions of the World's Columbian Dental Congress, Chicago, August 14, 1893. Nothing will be omitted to provide for the comfort and entertainment of all who come accredited with the proper credentials. It is not necessary to further ask for papers from those at home or abroad, as the list is continually growing and from the best men. The managers will endeavor to illustrate in various ways all the phases of dental science and practice to the entertainment and enlightenment of the civilized world. The reader of this article is invited, if he has anything new, old, or valuable, to send or bring it to the appropriate committee in time to properly classify it and present it at the Congress.

If there is any ambitious Westerner, or Southerner, or Northerner, or denizen of the East, who has not sent in the title of his paper, let him do it at once, so the committee may know just what to expect. We do not lack for numbers, they are assured. What we desire, above all, is an audience that will reflect the integrity, the attainments, and grand intelligence of the world of dentists.—*From Editorial in Dental Review.*

The soldering of aluminum which has long been a difficult problem, has been recently solved. By sprinkling the surface to be soldered with chloride of silver, and melting down, the soldering is effected simply and satisfactorily.—*Ohio Journal.*

The Importance of Attending the Columbian Dental Congress.

To all readers of the dental periodicals, the meeting of the Dental Congress at Chicago, in August, is a subject of interest, as it marks an event which is to demonstrate the advanced state which dentistry has reached in the scientific elements pertaining to it, as well as the growth in its practical development. It may be questioned whether this general interest has excited the profession to a sufficient appreciation of the great value the meeting will have to those who may attend it, and the stimulus it probably will effect upon the succeeding decades. If it be well attended, and if the management shall control the opportunity with its possibilities, it will become a marked event in the history of dentistry.

To this Congress has been invited leading men from all parts of the world. Many of these occupy advanced positions in the countries from which they will come. They inevitably will have views to present in the modes of thought peculiar to them. Papers will be read by these which, from the nature of the occasion, must call out the best efforts of their authors. The men of our own country most nearly identified with scientific efforts will also be there, with whatever they may have prepared to lay before the minds gathered to do honor to the memorable occasion.

The ruling thought of those originating and managing the Congress was, and continues to be, to make it represent the highest professional and best scientific thought of the day. That purpose will continue to govern to the end. This being the leading and the animating motive, it becomes all interested in the welfare of our profession to make arrangements to be present. Neither personal feeling, if any such should exist, nor inconvenience should deter any from being one of the throng to welcome our friends, and to do whatever they may to further advance the position to which the science and art of dentistry has reached.

To those of foreign countries who have been delegated to attend, and to those who may not have had special invitation, the occasion is one which will well repay for the necessary journey, as they will have the greatest opportunity to observe the multi-

tudinous devices and methods connected with applied dentistry, which is a field in which, it must be conceded, America is predominant. To those of our own country it is of extreme importance they do not let the event pass without their presence—not only that they may benefit by the higher features presented, but that the occasion may be inspirited by the influence of numbers united in a common effort. It is also due the managements that a spontaneous response should be given to the labor which the officers of the Congress have been making to insure a successful result.

The plea which some have made, that the Congress is open to depreciation because the invitation to attend has been extended to all qualified dentists, should have no value to deter any from giving the Congress the support of their presence. The intention is to make the meeting an educational one, with a warm international character. It will have much of the characteristics of the World's Fair, of which it is a portion. It is an exposition of the products of mind, and they who have this wealth to display, in so doing honor themselves and ennoble their motives. If only those who are engaged in developing the scientific features of dentistry were to constitute the Congress, it would prove a cold affair, and the proceedings would have little influence over our progress. There must be those to receive instruction as well as those to give it. So let the genius of democracy and the influence of numbers animate the meeting, that its potency may be widely felt.

Let us trust that both home and foreign representatives will be fully present at the Columbian Dental Congress, that the largest benefits may grow out of it.—*From Editorial in International Dental Journal.*

The World's Fair—Accommodations.

Much has been said pro and con in regard to the accommodation of visitors to the Fair and the expenses involved. Undoubtedly if circumstances are favorable there will be the largest gatherings of people that have ever taken place on this continent. While there may be a disposition on the part of some of those whose business it will be to provide for the comfort of those who

may attend, to extort, it can hardly be possible that the number of such will be very large. The people of Chicago cannot afford to permit anything of this kind to become general, nor to be practised in any case with approval. The interests of the Fair and the city, and the good name of Chicago will be promoted by a fair, liberal and inviting policy.

The following statement from the authorities of the Fair seems to indicate that abundant provision will be made, and at reasonable rates for all who will attend :—

“ In answer to the many inquiries from boards of trade and similar bodies concerning the alleged plan to demand extortionate prices for accommodations in Chicago next summer, Major W. Marsh Kasson, at the request of the Director-General, has prepared the following report from the Bureau of Public Comfort :

“ This bureau has been established by the World's Columbian Exposition to co-operate, through its hotels and rooming departments, to the best of its ability, with the citizens of Chicago for the comfort and protection of visitors, to secure for them suitable and desirable lodging at fair and reasonable rates.

“ The management is keenly alive to the fact that thousands of visitors will be deterred from visiting the city unless they can be fully assured on this point, hence every effort is being made to realize satisfactory results in this direction.

“ Inquiries were sent out some time ago to householders having furnished rooms to let, to learn, as far as possible, prices that would be expected therefor, and the following statement gives the general average quotations received in reply, to cover accommodation for over 16,000 people in the best part of the city lying between North avenue and Seventy-ninth street :—

“ Price of rooms per day without board—

“ Single room, single bed, one person, \$1.35.

“ Double room, double bed, one person, \$2.12 ; two persons, \$2.70.

“ Double-bedded room, two double beds, two persons, \$3.50.

“ Double-bedded room, two double beds, three persons, \$4.15.

“ Double-bedded room, two double beds, four persons, \$5.50.

“ There certainly does not seem, according to these figures, to be any indication that citizens of Chicago will demand excessive rates for the accommodation of visitors to the Exposition, and

they can be relied upon to sustain the good reputation of Chicago for fair and liberal treatment of its guests. One publishing house has a pamphlet now in press containing a list of over 10,000 places in the city of Chicago where furnished rooms can be had at moderate rates.

"The great mass of visitors will doubtless prefer the quiet and economy of furnished rooms such as alluded to, and apartment hotels, arranging to take their meals from day to day wherever it may suit their convenience. It is estimated that from 50,000 to 100,000 people can be served daily with meals within the Exposition grounds alone, while the number of hotels and restaurants is constantly increasing."—*From Editorial in Dental Register.*

The Educational Side of the World's Columbian Dental Congress.

Of the many results which may be expected to flow from the holding of the World's Columbian Dental Congress, perhaps the most important and far-reaching will be along educational lines. This in general is true of any similar dental gathering, but there are certain reasons why the Congress in question is likely to achieve distinction in this regard over any other previously held. The World's Congress Auxiliary, under whose general auspices the Dental Congress is to be held, is an organization constituted for the purpose of showing forth the progress and condition of human intellect at the time of the World's Fair, just as the Fair itself is intended to demonstrate the progress of human thought from the standpoint of its material expression. The keynote which defines the scope and purpose of the Congress Auxiliary is its motto: "Not matter, but mind; not things, but men." In order to attain its object and comprehensively present a full view of the status of subjects within its scope, no less than one hundred congresses have been arranged for, under the Congress Auxiliary, to be held at suitable times during the progress of the Fair; and it is believed that, in their entirety, these several congresses will represent every department of thought with which the human intellect has concerned itself. It is as a part of this liberal plan that the World's Columbian Dental Congress is to be held. Based upon

such a broad foundation, with so exalted a motive, the Dental Congress, as in fact are all of the congresses, is at once lifted beyond narrow sectional lines. The vexed questions respecting the status of dentistry in relation to medicine, which have resulted in divisions of opinion and the consequent formation of the class distinctions among dental practitioners, must necessarily become of secondary importance in relation to the Columbian Dental Congress, simply by reason of its fundamental animating motive, viz.: to set forth the condition of dental science and art as it exists at the time of holding the Congress. The very fact that diametrically opposite views are held as to the relations of dentistry and medicine furnishes, perhaps, one of the best arguments why such a Congress as is contemplated should be held. The opportunity thus afforded for discussing this important question in the presence and with the help of the ablest thinkers in dentistry from all parts of the world, must have a decided value in enabling us to arrive at a better and more accurate judgment upon the issue than would be possible under less favorable circumstances or by less efficient means; and this holds true with respect to the whole work of the Dental Congress. Further, the international character of the Congress, taken in connection with the broad, catholic foundation upon which it is based, must tend to a general levelling upward of our American dental ideals through the wholesome corrective influence of contact with the high scientific standards for which our transatlantic confreres are so eminently distinguished. The greatest advances which have been made during the world's history are those which, within the past century, have been due to the civilizing influence which is the direct outgrowth of the various means afforded by modern science for the rapid intercommunication of nations and peoples. It is the same principle of thought communication that, in a degree, holds good with respect to the positive educational value which appertains to the holding of these meetings. This influence upon the thought of the profession (including not only the practitioner, but the student) must be twofold, by reason of its educational effect upon the profession as a body, and especially upon those of its members who are teachers. The whole question of the constitution of the dental curriculum is dependent upon the character of the result which it is intended to produce; and if it should finally be determined

that the best practitioner of dentistry is that one who has been trained as a medical specialist, such a result cannot be attained through a curriculum formulated on the maxim that dentistry is a distinct and independent profession. The proposition is trite, but it is yet far from a satisfactory solution. May not the meeting at Chicago be expected to do much toward bringing order out of this chaotic problem? By totally ignoring the class distinctions which have grown up around practitioners who hold exclusively to either side of this question, by admitting to its deliberations all dentists who are reputable and legally qualified practitioners of whatever creed, by giving to each class unrestricted opportunity to demonstrate the best of which it is capable within the limits of its practice and culture, regardless of its standpoint respecting the status of dentistry—in short, by a proper showing of the actual condition of dentistry in all of its relationships and from all standpoints, those who are its leaders of thought and the educators of students will be enabled to so intelligently direct their efforts that improved curricula, a higher ethical standard, and more rational and scientific methods of procedure must result. These are the ends of greatest importance, and those which, under the high animating principle of the Congress, must be first attained. Anything less would be inconsistent with the motto of the Congress Auxiliary, from which the Dental Congress derives its guiding and governing sentiment.

Whatever may be the final result as to the status of dentistry, the educational value of the Congress cannot be doubted; this alone must surely do much toward advancing dentistry to the position where its best friends hope to see it, whether under the sovereignty of general medicine as its most highly developed specialty, or as a distinct and independent profession.—*From Editorial in Dental Cosmos.*

When Dr. Abernethy was canvassing for the office of Surgeon of St. Bartholomew's Hospital he called upon a rich grocer. The great man, addressing him, said: "I suppose, sir, you want my vote and interest at this momentous epoch of your life." "No, I don't," said Abernethy, "I want a pennyworth of figs; come, look sharp and wrap them up; I want to be off."

Reviews.

Notes on Anæsthetics in Dental Surgery. By ARTHUR S. UNDERWOOD, M. R. C. S., L. D. S., England, and C. CARTER BRAINE, F. R. C. S. Second edition. London: C. Ash & Sons, 1893. 166 pages.

Mr. Underwood is well-known as a safe and scientific investigator, and while the first edition of this little work was practically valuable, it has been made much more so by the technical skill and knowledge of Mr. Carter Braine, who holds the position of Anæsthetist and Instructor in Anæsthetics at Charing Cross Hospital, etc. In the chapter on General Considerations, the authors clearly explain the precautions necessary, both in the preparation of the patient, and in administering the various anæsthetics: so clearly, in fact, that we know of no other work of such special advantage to the dentist. With too many operators, anæsthetics are perhaps regarded with a reckless indifference, and the unscientific opinion is held that specialists have exaggerated their dangers. In the United Kingdom the anæsthetist is a specialist, who administers the anæsthetic for the dental operator. It appears that this division of labor has had valuable results, and has led to an important alliance, the benefit of which we get in this practical and interesting book. It is well illustrated.

Quiz Compendis? No. 13. Dental Pathology and Medicine. By GEORGE W. WARREN, D. D. S. Second edition. Illustrated. Philadelphia: P. Blakeston, Son & Co. 1893. 163 pages.

Plain, practical, compact, convenient: a large library in a little space.

Sir William Gull was asked by a lady if he did not consider experiments on animals as cruel. "Madam," he said, "there is no cruelty comparable to ignorance."—*The Humanitarian*.

Dull or improper instruments are cause for complaint. The idea of some that it will be taken as evidence of skill to have but few instruments, and the boast that "I can use anything," is nonsense; the more skilful the dentist, the keener, brighter and more delicate, varied and appropriate will be his instruments.