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(Official Organ of the Ontario Dental Association.)



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MCGILL UNIVERSITY

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DOMINION ¹⁰⁶ 3 17 DENTAL JOURNAL.

VOL. V.

TORONTO, JANUARY, 1893.

No. 1

Original Communications.

The Gum-Focus System of Dentistry.

By OLIVER MARTIN, L.D.S., Ottawa, Ont.

It is difficult to surpass the atmospheric principle of inserting teeth, it has so many advantages over the clasp and spring system. Even in partial dentures, an atmospheric plate is superior for one tooth over the clasp plate, as no antagonism exists between the clasps and the natural teeth. But to consider this system of inserting plates or teeth, as well as that with clasps, as the only method by which a denture can be successfully applied, is to believe we have arrived at the hub of perfection. I do not think man can ever arrive at a stand-still perfection; for these reasons, I propose to describe the gum-focus principle as something new and practical.

The bones of the superior and inferior maxillary are not very sensitive, and less so if you are not too hasty in informing your patient what you are going to do. Let us take, for example, an upper denture. First, it is not difficult to judge, from the length of the roots of the natural teeth, the depth of hole that can be drilled opposite or in the position of the second molars, as they are further removed from the antrum; the next two holes are in the position of the cuspids. It is necessary to be careful, and not drill so deep as to interfere with the branch of the nerves that supply the jaw when much absorption has taken place, but in any case to drill a quarter of an inch is quite safe and of sufficient depth to retain the gold pin with firmness. About No. 10 gold wire will be found sufficiently strong. A coarse thread is cut

a quarter of an inch (the depth of the hole) on the wire ; the pin's full length is about three-quarters of an inch. This gives half an inch of projection, still the length of the pins must be judged according to the nature of the case if the teeth are long or short. In order to regain the natural expression, it must not be supposed that the drilling of four small holes with a sharp drill in the alveolar is a painful operation. When the position is ascertained, the drill is passed quickly through the soft tissue, which is the most sensitive. When the pins are screwed in the jaw bone, in nine days the bone is formed firmly around the pins. Why it is called the gum-focus principle. The thread on the gold pin taps the bone, no other tap is necessary ; the holes should not be drilled before you are ready to insert the pin, that is, one hole is drilled and the pin is inserted, and so on for the four holes. A small cork is placed over the first pin as soon as it is in position, and the same with each pin. This protects the pin from being twisted by the antagonizing teeth, the gums from being wounded by the pins. When a denture is to be made on this principle, the impression is taken and the rim plate stamped in the ordinary way, before the pins are inserted. Although the impression can be taken with the pins in position, it may be an advantage to do so, as it marks the position of the pins accurately ; but I prefer to take the impression before the pins are in position, as there is less danger in removing the impression, and there is no difficulty in getting the position of the pins through the plate when the rim plate is well fitted. From the form of the plate, as well as that of the cast, the position of the pins is ascertained, the holes are drilled through the plate and the plate placed in position in the mouth. Then the holes are drilled in the alveolar through those in the plate, and the pins screwed in as soon as each hole is drilled ; the holes in the plate are a little larger than the pins, as they are to admit the tubes in which the pins are held. In a full denture of the upper jaw, as this example is made to represent, gum teeth are used, and the teeth are in sections. The well known method of fastening section teeth on a gold plate is superior to lining single teeth, being much cleaner. My method has been to rivet thin pieces of gold to the sections, cutting off the head of the pins ; the gold backing, being thin, is turned into

a loop at the plate end, allowing the backing to be long enough to do so. On the plate is also soldered thin pieces of gold; the end of the narrow strip of gold only is soldered to the plate, allowing the projecting part to be also turned into a loop. This holds the cement to the plate and teeth, which forms a strong combination. The pink rubber makes the neatest cement, as it finishes nicely, being of a better color than the red rubber, and as it is not used as the base of the plate, but as a cement, the work is very strong and clean. The tubes that are to be soldered in the holes of the plate, and are to admit the jaw pins, are turned on a wire the size of the jaw pins. It is not necessary to solder the tube lengthways, as the spring the tube affords will be found convenient to bind on the pin. Back of the cuspids there is room for the tube, but not so with the position of the right and left molars. To overcome this difficulty, with a narrow corundum wheel grind a groove along the interior side of the section molars that will allow your tube to pass in position. The tube and pink rubber will supply the deficiency of porcelain. With the cast before you, with four iron wires in the same position fixed in the cast, the dentist will be enabled to adjust the plate and teeth to a nicety. When all has been done on the cast that is necessary, a trial in the mouth is made to see if the teeth are in proper expression; being held in position by wax, any slight change is easily effected. To sum up the gum focus process, four pins are screwed in the jaw bone, a plate is stamped, tubes are soldered to the plate that admit the pins. The plate is but a rim enclosing the alveolar ridge. These teeth can be removed by the wearer and replaced with ease, as the tubes must come in direct contact with the pins to place the teeth in their position. The combination of the four pins hold the teeth in place without a tight fit of the pins in the tubes, but merely a nice adaptation of the pins and tubes. The advantage of this system is the perfect use that can be made of artificial teeth without dislodging them, the freedom of the palate, the power of inserting teeth in any difficultly-formed mouth. Nicely adapted caps of vulcanized rubber can be made to fit over the pins and given to the patient in connection with the teeth, and instructed to place these caps over the pins when the teeth are taken out. The advantage of placing a single tooth by this method will be apparent to every dentist, as well as any number of teeth, or partial denture. When the ridge plate is made of rubber, the

tubes are held by the vulcanite. They are placed over the iron pins in the cast, and the gum packed around them, as well as the teeth. The only particular point is to have the pins in the cast in exact position with those in the jaw. When Japanese can split the alveolar ridge and insert pieces of pearl, surely a small hole can be drilled with a sharp drill without much inconvenience.

Dental Dots Distilled.

By D. V. BEACOCK, Brockville, Ont.

CANAL DRYER.—Take a piece of copper, trim to size and shape of a good-sized marrow-fat pea, drill a small hole clean through it, take a piece of piano wire a little larger than the hole in the copper, file or grind it down to a nice taper like a heavy broach, drive it through the hole in the copper as far as it will go and set the thick end into a small handle of any kind; you can heat the copper and it will retain the heat and keep the wire hot for a long time. The wire can be made as fine as you wish for entering any canal by using disks of sandpaper used on a mandrel in the engine; place these disks face to face and put cardboard at the back of each disk to stiffen the sandpaper disks.

For lower cases use pieces of block tin. This answers a double purpose, prevents the rubber being porous and answers instead of weighted rubber.

German silver rolled out thirty-six guage, for bands, three or four sizes of piano wire, together with a few pieces of German silver joint wire, such as used by watchmakers; a little soft solder, some small rubber tubing; almost any ordinary case of irregularity may be undertaken, the material costing only a few cents. No plates or jack-screws are required in many cases.

Dr. Miller says we can never know what virus may be clinging to our instruments, nor can we with certainty predict the result of a wound upon the gums, cheeks, or lips, with an unclean instrument. The case of the Amsterdam physician who died from an infection caused by lancing the gums, should be a warning to us. Only a short time ago a surgeon, who fully recognizes the necessity of proper care of the teeth, made the statement that he had

been obliged to let his own teeth go to ruin, because the uncleanness of the dentist in the place where he resided was so great, that he could not run the risk of an infection by his instruments.

There is a story of a celebrated sculptor who had chiselled a head of Christ. It was greatly admired. He was told that it was the greatest work of his life and that he need never hope to equal it. "If that be so," said he, "I am to be pitied, I have ceased to grow, my mental decay has begun, I have nothing more now to live for."

Moral: never think that you have done your best. Onward and upward should be our motto. I have been practising dentistry going on thirty years. I study harder now than I ever did, and often feel that I am only just beginning to learn dentistry properly. When I first commenced, like many other young men, I thought—that as I learned to pull teeth, boil a piece of rubber, and fill a cavity like a carpenter puttying up a knot hole—I was a dentist. I have outgrown that belief. It is the privilege of all of us to improve as we grow older. Whoever is satisfied with what he does, that he has reached his culminating point, will progress no more.

Gold Attachments in Cases of Close Bite.

By W. A. ROBERTSON, L.D.S., Crookston, Minn.

It frequently happens that we are called upon to replace one or more teeth by means of a plate, in which the bite is so close that it is not possible to use rubber as an attachment. So in cases when the patient cannot afford an all-gold plate, we are in the habit of attaching the teeth by an extension of gold plate into the rubber. Although this is nothing new, we have met several professional friends to whom it was new, and as it has been exceedingly useful to ourselves, as well as many others, we trust a short description of the process may not be amiss, and may be of use to others.

Having obtained a correct impression and bite, we select a plate tooth to correspond with the natural ones remaining, and grind it to fit closely to the gum. When this has been done, attach the

tooth by a little wax to hold it in position, and varnish and oil the labial portion of the cast around the tooth, and run a little soft plaster over it, sufficiently to just cover the cutting edge, by using a little sulphate of potash. This only takes a minute or two, and is of great convenience in attaching the backing, etc. When hard remove the wax and investment, and back up the tooth in the ordinary way. We have found the use of a little fine cardboard (that in which the manufacturers send out the solder is generally handy) very convenient in shaping the backing. Press the pins through it and trim with a pair of scissors to the size the packing is to be, and by using this as a pattern, it is easy to cut the packing and punch the holes. When this is done, place the tooth back in the investment, and set back on the cast to see that the backing does not interfere with its going to place. If it is all right, cut a strip of gold plate (No. 30 is strong enough) about the same width for single teeth as the backing, and about one-half inch in length. Punch a few holes in this and bind to conform approximately to the roof of the mouth on the cast; lay it in place and close the bite to be sure it is right. Fasten to the backing with a little sticky wax, and remove from cast and invest in plaster and sand, equal parts, and solder. If the work has been carefully done, the soldered piece will go right to place, and the waxing up may be proceeded with. It is well to finish up the solder, etc., before waxing, as it is more troublesome to do when the plate is completed. When there are two or more teeth, we generally use the gold extension a little wider than for single teeth, attaching it midway between the two. This will be strong enough and saves time. In packing the rubber, draw out a small piece and then work it carefully under the gold extension, so as to insure its perfect imbedding in the rubber.

A Temporary Crown.

By J. F. SIMPSON, D.D.S., Trenton, Ont.

Having found that a "Crown *pro tem*" is often very handy while a person is treating up a front tooth that has been broken, I use the following, which a person can make and adjust in ten

minutes: Grind broken stump of natural tooth down to near gum border; take an English plate tooth that suits the space, and for a post, a stiff piece of roughened wire flattened at one end; at flattened end, file two small notches in opposite edges, for the pins of the tooth to be bent into to hold the wire firm; this makes the crown, and can be set with gutta percha or "absorbent cotton" wrapped about the wire and put up the root canal; the swelling of the cotton holds it firm in the root, and can be easily removed and reset each time we have to treat the root. Any of my patients who have had to wear this crown have been well satisfied with it. The first one I used was in the case of a gentleman who had just broken off a dead root central. I set him one, and in thirty minutes he was back at work in his store.

Proceedings of Dental Societies.

Ontario Dental Society.

(Continued from page 195.)

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

Meeting opened at 2.20, with President in chair. Dr. N. Pearson, of Toronto, read a paper on "A Plea for the Preservation of the Natural Teeth" (published in September Number).

Dr. C. A. MARTIN (Ottawa)—Opened the discussion. He had hoped there would be something in the paper to fight (was always ready for a fight), but the line laid down was the same as he had followed for years. Always tried to preserve the anterior roots to keep the contour of the face, and place a plate over them. A certain class of people won't keep themselves clean, so work won't be beneficial. There was a period when it was too expensive for the public to get substitutes for the natural organs, and all means were resorted to to preserve them; but on the introduction of rubber as a base a great change took place, and many teeth were sacrificed to the cheaper means of replacement. The introduction of nitrous oxide also increased the slaughter. Does not extract one now where he used to extract fifty. Does not go to extremes

in that direction either, but saves any one that it is possible to put into a healthy condition, except for regulation.

Dr. C. N. JOHNSON (Chicago).—The replacement of the canine eminence was mentioned in the paper. The loss of the cuspid changes the expression more than any other tooth, and great care is required in replacing that with rubber.

Dr. PEARSON—Replied to the discussion in a few words. The chairman then introduced to the Convention, Dr. McMillan, from Africa, who made a few remarks. Though not a dentist still where there were no dentists, his profession included part of our practice. The African teeth were very white, and he thought this might be accounted for in part to the plain food on which the natives live. They always clean their mouth and teeth after every meal. Of course they have no tooth brushes, but use a soft wood soaked in water. The natives in the inland file their incisors to a point.

The Convention adjourned at 3.45 to allow the members to avail themselves of the pleasure of a drive tendered the Convention by the Toronto Dental Society.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

The members gathered again in the evening. The President called the meeting to order at 8.10. It was decided to hold the next meeting of the Society in Hamilton, in July, 1893.

Dr. Johnson repeated his invitation to the members to visit the greatest dental meeting ever held, and the greatest city, Chicago, next August. As Dr. Beers, of Montreal, was unable to be present, his paper was read by the Secretary, on "Alveolar Abscess."

Dr. JOHNSON (Chicago)—Thought we did not know all we ought about the subject; even if we did, it should be repeatedly brought to our notice. Must be a very severe case of alveolar abscess which cannot be cured without extraction. If necessary, the end of the root may be extirpated. One condition of abscess the essayist overlooked—the calcic alveolar abscess—where the trouble is due to calcic deposit in the root with a live pulp. Is not a believer in use of very strong drugs. The ordinary abscess can be cured to-day in one or two sittings, where fifteen years ago it would take twenty treatments. Found a very simple method of forcing the drug through the tooth was to fill the pulp canal and chamber

with cotton saturated in the drug, then put piece of plate rubber in the cavity and pack it in with a blunt instrument: acts as a piston, and forces the drug ahead better than any kind of a syringe.

Dr. J. B. WILLMOTT (Toronto),—After thirty-five years' practice, had no hesitation in saying there were many abscesses it was impossible to cure. Where the root was roughened was one case. No discredit to the operator not to meet with success. Another condition which was worse—where there was slow development of caries and ossification of pulp and contents of pulp canal; part of pulp dies, and abscess follows. That abscess can't be cured with tooth in place. Constitutional disturbances also indicate a very unfavorable prognosis of alveolar abscess.

Questions, which Dr. Johnson answered, were asked by Drs. Clements, Dorland, Martin and Beam.

Although it was very late, still the meeting was very anxious to hear Dr. Beacock's paper on "Microbes, and what they are doing." Everyone was delighted, and there was a universal feeling of regret that the time would admit of no discussion.

As several of those who had promised to give clinics on the following morning backed out at the last minute, it was announced that there would be no Thursday meeting. The Convention adjourned at 10.30.

W. E. WILLMOTT, *Secretary.*

Banquet of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons.

It was a jolly company that on 24th November assembled in the banqueting room of the Rossin house, and made merry at the seventh annual dinner of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons. The best of good-fellowship, a superb menu, bright speeches and good music combined to make it the most successful of all similar events in the history of the institution.

President Dalmadge of the class of '92 presided, and the company voted him a model chairman. The vice-chair was occupied by Mr. Wm McGuire. On either side of him were Mr. Wm. Mulock, M.P., vice-chancellor of Toronto University; Dr. Willmott, dean of the Faculty of the Dental College; Profs. Teskey and Stuart; Dr. H. D. Wood, Prof. Reynar of Victoria University; Mr. Maclean of Osgoode Hall, Dr. W. H. B. Aikins, dean of

Toronto Medical School ; Prof. Heebner, dean of the Faculty of the Ontario College of Pharmacy, and others.

Mr. Dalmadge arose at 10 o'clock and delivered an address, in which he paid warm and well-merited compliments to the classes of '92 and '93, between whom there was the utmost harmony, although there was of necessity some showing of teeth ; to the members of the Faculty ; to the Board of Directors, of whom much was expected in the future, and to the Board of Examiners, of whom more would be known next spring. He gave some sage advice to the freshmen, in the form of a series of sarcastic "don'ts," greatly to the amusement of the unsympathetic seniors. Then he turned the fire of his wit upon the seniors in order to give the much-maligned freshmen a chance to laugh. He also gave the seniors some advice for their guidance when they go forth into the world to practise their professions. Among other things, he told them that after extracting the teeth of their patient they should not forget to invite him up to dinner.

The toast of the "Queen and royal family" was loyally honored.

"Educational Institutions" was a toast that was enthusiastically received.

Mr. Wm. Mulock, M.P., vice-chancellor of Toronto University, said that he was not practically connected with the educational institutions of Toronto, but rather with the political side of educational life. His relations with the Faculty of the College of Dentistry had been of the most gratifying and cordial nature. At the time when the college became associated with the university, Dr. Willmott, the dean of the college, laid down the proposition that dental surgery should be placed in the position which, as an important science, it deserved. Affiliation, he promised, would not lower the standard of qualification, but would raise it and give those practising the profession of dental surgery the place before the public that they were entitled to. The university had never had to prod the representatives of dental surgery to make good the promises made by Dr. Willmott, who had laid down the fundamental principle that the primary education of the dental student should be that of the medical student, the only differentiation being when they branched out upon the sciences which they proposed to study. The dental college now occupied its proper place as one of the duly authorized and legally-constituted edu-

ational institutions of the country taking a part in moulding and controlling the general education. It had been suggested by Dr. Willmott that the diplomas granted to dental surgeons should give credit to the institution at which they had received their instruction.

Prof. Reynar referred to the happy relations existing between Victoria and Toronto University, and referred to the similarity of the relationship between Victoria College and the Dental College to the University, which he likened to the step-mother of those two institutions. He expressed a fervent wish for the success in life of the students present.

Dr. Aikins referred to the remarkable progress made in the last twenty years by the profession of dental surgery, which now received the recognition which its importance demanded. He congratulated the students present on the choice of a profession which he said was doing a great work in relieving the sufferings of humanity and preventing diseases.

Mr. Charles Colter sang in good style that good old English song, "Longshoreman Billy."

Prof. Heebner spoke of the keen demand there was in this and other countries for the graduates of the affiliated institutions of Ontario. He regarded dentistry as the twin sister of pharmacy, and referred to the present as the age of scientific specialism. In conclusion he paid a well-deserved tribute to the Faculty of the Dental College.

The toast of the "Dental Colleges of the United States" brought to his feet Dr. J. S. Brooks, an American who is taking a course in the dental college in Toronto. He said that dentistry had advanced from a mere mechanical art to a science, whose practitioners were taking a foremost place among the professions. This was due to a great extent to the American colleges, although he would say that the standard set up at the Ontario Dental College was higher than that adopted by the colleges of his own country. Many graduates of the Ontario College went to the United States to practise their profession. This was probably not so much due to the inefficiency of the American colleges as to the form of government in that country.

Dr. H. D. Wood spoke well in response to the toast of the "Dental Profession in Canada." In years gone by there were

times when he was constrained to apologize for his profession, but now he was proud of it. It had attained that place among the scientific callings that its importance entitled it to.

"The Faculty and Board of Directors" was ably represented by Dr. Teskey, Dr. J. B. Willmott, Dr. Stuart, Dr. W. E. Willmott and Dr. Capon. For the Board of Directors, Messrs. N. Pierson, R. McLachlin and J. G. Roberts responded. The toast of "Our Guests" was replied by Messrs. Maclean, Hastings, Ross and Dixon. Dr. H. G. Lake spoke for the class of '92, Mr. W. T. McGorman for the graduating class, and Mr. R. J. Read for the freshmen.

Mr. D. Russell entertained the company with a well-rendered song.

The music was furnished by Vincenzo Glionna's orchestra.

Students' Dental Society.

The students of the Dental College of the Province of Quebec have organized a Society, and elected the following officers: President, Omer Pichette; Vice-President, Clarence Hepburn; Secretary, R. L. Watson; Treasurer, Arthur Gareau; Committee, Eudore Dubeau, James Symons, Magdelger Mercier. The College rooms were offered them for their meetings, and no doubt the boys will enjoy themselves.

Board of Directors of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario.

At the last session of the Ontario Legislature, the dentists of the province secured an amendment to their Act of Incorporation, providing that the election of the members of the Board of Directors, whose duties are analogous to those of the Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, should in the future be by closed ballots forwarded by mail. The province was also divided into seven districts, one member to be elected from each. The first election under the new system has just been completed, and the following gentlemen declared to be the members of the Board

of Directors for the ensuing two years :—District No. 1, George E. Hanna, Kemptville ; No. 2, John A. Marshall, Belleville ; No. 3, H. T. Wood, Toronto, by acclamation ; No. 4, R. J. Husband, Hamilton, by acclamation ; No. 5, A. M. Clarke, Woodstock, by acclamation ; No. 6, James Stirton, Guelph ; No. 7, J. A. Smith, Windsor, by acclamation. Representative from the Faculty of the School of Dentistry, J. Branston Willmott, Toronto. In the districts contested not very much interest was manifested, less than thirty-five per cent. of the vote being cast.

Correspondence.

Mr. Editor,—

Now that the R. C. O. D. S. at Toronto has got on a good representative basis, I take the liberty of suggesting to our new Board the advisability of doing away with the L.D.S., which has always been to me a rather undesirable title. All honor to the old Board who brought about University affiliation, but do not let the matter rest there. Give the poor student the same chance as his richer and more fortunate brother who has got twenty dollars to spend on a D.D.S.

There can be no question about the title of "Dr." carrying with it a certain amount of respect which a licentiate can never have, no matter what the standard of his examination may have been. When anyone receives an honorable title, he understands that he has a certain amount of dignity to maintain, and he will be placed on his honor to uphold that trust. This, I believe, will do more to elevate the profession than anything else. As a consequence of this course, you will see the number of students in attendance at our College increase, while the number of those who go across the line to "finish up," ostensibly, but really for the D.D.S., grow beautifully less, thus showing to our American cousins that we are able to "finish" as well as educate our own students. Let us hear from the profession at large on the subject.

Yours very truly,

EXCELSIOR.

Obituary.

George S. Lovejoy.

There is always something touchingly sad in the death of a young and earnest student during the college session, when loving hearts at home were watching his progress, and his own hopeful ambition was spurring him on. Death loves a shining mark; and this has rarely been more truthfully shown than in the bereavement last month to our friends, Dr. George W. and Mrs. Lovejoy, of Montreal.

George S. Lovejoy, in the eighteenth year of his life, and his second of medicine at McGill University, had distinguished himself by ranking at the head, among over ninety, in the formidable matriculation examination before the College of Physicians and Surgeons, while in his classes in McGill, he was thoroughly in earnest and honestly intent upon mastering his studies. He was one of the registered students of the "Dental Association of Quebec," intending to make dentistry his profession; but ambitious to avail himself of the advantages of a medical and surgical education, he entered upon the course two years ago. Those of us who knew him, young as he was, saw in his earnestness and uprightness of character, the promise of a brilliant and noble manhood, destined, had he been spared, to make his mark in the higher sphere of honorable practice. His personal character endeared him to his fellows, and leaves behind him a fragrant memory.

The sympathy in Montreal for the parents was noticeably of a public character. At the funeral, which was one of the largest seen for many years, in connection with the death of so young a man, McGill University was represented by the professors, and a large body of students; the Dental College of Quebec was represented by its full staff, and the French and English students, who, not only passed resolutions of sympathy with Dr. and Mrs. Lovejoy, but sent a beautiful flower tribute with the inscription, "From the Faculties and Students of the Dental College, Province of Quebec." The lectures in the college were also suspended.

At the opening meeting of the Dental College, our lamented young friend was present, interested in the initiation of the first work of the kind in Quebec.

Words are but feeble to express the sincere sorrow for the loss of a student whose memory will not soon be forgotten.

Selections.

Pulled a Panther's Tooth.

Barnum's circus brought to town a big, yellow South American panther with a bad tooth. The tooth was in the left of the upper jaw, and was black with decay, and had a hollow in which a meal might be lost. It hurt the South American panther so much that he howled through the night until the zebra kicked. The zebra is an aristocratic member of the menagerie, formed, according to the erudite, gentlemanly and urbane press agent, "by the union of the stallion of his species with the wild jackass of Asia." He is the only animal in the collection who wears a blazer, and when he declared he couldn't sleep of nights on account of the noise the yellow South American panther made, the circus men said the tooth must out. After the tents had been put up in this town yesterday, Veterinary Surgeon S. S. Baker was sent for, and yesterday he appeared at the menagerie accompanied by a tall young man with red hair and shoes, who carried a pair of forceps that looked like ice-tongs, a saw and a probe. The panther crouched in a corner and glared at the rest of the world with vicious eyes. The boss of the menagerie got a crowd of stakemen around the cage and lured the panther to the bars, when a noose was thrown around one of the sinewy legs. Then the panther began to fight. He struck blows as quick as the stroke of an adder, and as ponderous as a sledge blow at the bars, and his thin face split and showed a cavernous passage that looked like an alley in a slaughter-house. He was a mean-looking brute as he lay there gnashing his great teeth and straining his lithe body in his attempt to destroy the big bony men in the blue overalls, who were slowly harnessing him tightly, passed the collar around the neck and a wooden gag through

the teeth. Then the boss canvas man invited the horse doctor to step in. The horse doctor took off his coat and climbed into the cage where the wildcat was writhing in the bonds. The young man with the red hair and shoes passed the forceps to him, and after some parleying with the panther and dodging the sharp teeth that were occasionally driven at his hands, the doctor got hold of the tusk and began to twist it out. The big brute lay quiet for a minute, but then the roots dragged at the hard flesh with a sound like canvas tearing on a nail; he twisted and gnashed and tugged at the ropes until the muscles of the canvas men were strained to their utmost. After a while a piece of tooth as big as a wish-bone came away. Then another smaller fragment was dragged out, and then the horse doctor plunged in his probe and pried away the roots with some meat and a great deal of blood. He climbed hurriedly out of the cage, dodging a friendly swipe from a panther in the next apartment. The doors of the cage were locked and the panther released. There wasn't much fight in him. He looked weak and weary, and blood was gushing from his jaws. He was seven years old, and the tooth taken from his face was about five inches long.—*Chicago Herald*.

Smudged Gold.

The common method of annealing gold mats, pellets, or cylinders, by holding them over or in the flame of an alcohol lamp or Bunsen gas burner, is a practice which, while ordinarily successful, is liable to occasion defects in the fillings.

The resulting imperfections are not often observable in flush finished fillings, although some of these subsequently scale at marginal points on their surfaces; but elaborate building or contour work not infrequently meets with most disappointing disaster, due to the smudging of the gold by the incomplete combustion of the flame fuel. Yet the real cause of the calamity is unnoticed, and fault found with the gold, or the possible presence of a leak in the dam, or other source of moisture suspected, whereas the first thought following the surprising failure should be, "the flame is at fault."

Clearly one of the most important preliminaries to a gold operation should be a careful secreting of the annealing flame, to be sure beyond peradventure that there is not a trace of smoke; that the combustion is perfect. The wick of the alcohol lamp is usually too tight in its tube, and not loose enough in its assemblage of fibres to permit a free flow of the fluid fuel.

Of course, the appearance of a single glow-point at the fibre end of the wick is a certain sign of smoke, and should at once be remedied.

When a lower grade than ninety-five per cent. alcohol is used, the residual fluid, after a few hours' burning, becomes so watery as to lessen combustion, and cause the charring of the wick-end.

The sight of a blackened wick-end leaves no doubt as to the probable character of the annealing and the operative work done by the use of that lamp.

The illuminating gas of divers cities differs in quality, and even in the same city varies from time to time in its heat and light-giving properties; therefore the ordinary Bunsen burner is liable to vary in its degree of combustion; but the habit of closely observing the flame and keeping it regulated to the blue point of complete combustion, will tend to the avoidance of the risk of smudging, the main thing being to be sure that the burner is a good one.

It is well to keep at hand a piece of white porcelain—for instance, a small butter plate—and by occasionally holding it for a minute or two over the flame, gain an assurance of the entire absence of smoke.

When the gas is of a poor quality, the impurities and the gaseous products of their combustion contaminate the gold to a degree incompatible with a perfect welding or cohesion.

The mica method of annealing is preferable, as avoiding all risk of a smudge; but many practitioners are confirmed in the habit of flame annealing, and will probably continue to employ the means to which they have become accustomed, and which, it is believed, may be satisfactorily modified in the particulars herein mentioned.

Cosmos.

W. STORER HOW.

The Function of the Schools.

We frequently hear the charge urged that dental schools are engaged in making scientific men, and not dentists; that they teach too much of theory and too little of practice. Instances are cited of graduates who were unable to insert as good a filling as some practitioners who had never attended a college. These criticisms are almost invariably made by illiterate men, who affect to despise book knowledge, and who claim that they themselves, all unlettered as they are, can teach a student more of dentistry than any school in the land.

When such an imputation is made, it is well to enquire what is understood by dentistry. If it be the extraction of teeth and the insertion of cheap rubber substitutes, robbing the people of the organs supplied by nature that fees may be charged for the frightful caricatures of the shop, there may be a modicum of truth in these assertions. That was the dentistry of a half-century ago. The practice of to-day is a very different thing. The schools teach that the first duty of the dentist is to save teeth, and this demands a knowledge of something more than extraction. The practitioner of to-day must be competent to treat all forms of oral disease, and this requires a knowledge of physiology, of pathology and therapeutics. The man who knows nothing but the making of false teeth, is no more worthy the name of dentist than is the man who makes wooden legs entitled to the name of surgeon. Even the ability to insert a thoroughly compacted gold filling does not make a dentist. He may have attained to the highest point in manipulative ability, and yet be nothing more than a mechanic. There is altogether too much of this judging of a man's professional standing by his mere skill in technics. Something more is demanded from a really professional man.

Not infrequently do we hear it said that Dr. A. is an excellent dentist, because he has the ability to make a beautiful artificial denture, when he knows nothing of the broad principles upon which a really intelligent practice is founded. Or Dr. B. may have won a great reputation as a professional man, because he can with a mallet hammer gold into a cavity in a tooth, and so finish it as to make a fine artistic display. We do not mean to under-

value or depreciate these accomplishments. They are essential to a thorough dentist, but they are far from being the only qualifications needed. Indeed, they are not the first requisites. A beautiful and substantial filling may be inserted in a tooth that was in no condition to receive it, and it may be but an injury instead of a benefit.

The education of the dentist should not begin in either the laboratory or the operating room. Before the student is prepared to commence operations in the mouth, he should be taught the underlying principles upon which a true practice must be founded. He must learn what is disease, and the steps necessary to secure a return to health. To put even the finest filling into a diseased tooth, perhaps over a dead and putrefying pulp, is not dentistry. To insert even the most beautiful artificial plate over tissues that are in an inflamed and sloughing condition, is not good practice. The dentist who is worthy the name of a professional man, must be able to diagnose disease of any of the tissues of the oral cavity before it is too late for cure. He should recognize inflammation of the osseous structure in advance of necrosis, and be able to use the proper remedies, both local and general, before a resort to surgical means becomes a necessity.

There is among dentists a great misconception of what is truly practical. As has been very wisely said, all true practice must be founded upon true science. There must first be a comprehension of what is physiological law, before one is fitted to deal with pathological cases. This world is not ruled by mere chance. It is governed by immutable, unchangeable principles, whether it be in its diurnal revolutions and the succession of the seasons, or in the evolution of a blade of grass. All function is the result of certain fixed regulations, and all disease is the result of violation of these physical statutes.

He who comprehends law and the principles upon which it is founded, is the only really practical man. If he be consistent, he is intensely practical, and is impatient with error and falsehood because they are not practical. He loves science because it is the only gateway to really practical achievements. He knows that he cannot really be practical unless he is first scientific, for all practical things must rest on a scientific basis. Science is law, and without it there can be nothing practical, or really practicable.

Hence the scientific man alone is really practical. Many enjoy rhetorical flourishes in speeches and writings, but an ounce of logic is worth a ton of rhetoric, and all really learned men despise mere verbiage, and stick to the realm of the practical.

Dental students must remember, then, that their education should begin with the study of the laws which govern all practice, that they may comprehend what is necessary to be done, and then proceed in the only really practical way, that which is in conformity with law. The principles which dominate practice once fairly mastered, the technical skill properly to perform operations is easily acquired, and must largely be obtained in daily practice after graduation at the schools.—*Dr. W. C. Barrett in Dental Practitioner and Advertiser.*

Editorial.

The Pan-American Medical Congress.

It seems to us rather unfortunate that this meeting is to be held in Washington coincidentally with the World's Columbian Dental Congress in Chicago; but no doubt it is expected that a good many visitors to the latter will manage to attend the former. The American Medical Association last year decided upon the step, and the section on "Oral and Dental Surgery," of which Dr. M. H. Fletcher, of Cincinnati, is Executive President, has been provided for. Every effort is being made to equip its staff and to make the meetings interesting.

The New Year.

With many good wishes for a Happy New Year, let us do something special to make it a prosperous one for the JOURNAL. The reputation of Canadian dentistry ought to be dear to everyone in our ranks. We know there are a few who measure that entirely by their own narrow conceit, and the more ignorant they are, the more mischief they may do. But the large bulk of the profession are not so, and the JOURNAL belongs to them.

The change made by the publisher ought to ensure us plenty of assistance in the way of short, practical articles, dottings from daily practice, hints from the operative room, as well as from the laboratory.

The World's Columbian Dental Congress.

There is no mistaking the zeal and determination of Brother Jonathan, D.D.S., to make our great meetings in Chicago an immense success. A splendid Executive Committee has been selected, and they have behind them the good-will and the earnest sympathy of every true dentist. It is impossible to say too much in favor of the proposed Congress. We hope that Canadian dentists from Halifax to Vancouver will make it a sacred duty to attend.

Stephen E. Globensky, L.D.S.

It affords us much pleasure to present the portrait of Dr. Globensky, President of the Board of Examiners of the Dental Association of the Province of Quebec, and Professor of Dental Prosthetics in the Dental College of the Province of Quebec.

Dr. Globensky was born at the village of St. Eustache in 1848. He came to Montreal when quite young, and followed a complete course of classics, after which he entered upon the study of dentistry under the direction of Dr. Chas. F. F. Trestler. Under such a master he soon acquired sufficient knowledge to be awarded his diploma in 1870, and finally became his partner.

In 1886 he was appointed one of the members of the Board of Examiners, whose treasurer he was for three years. In 1888 he was chosen by the Victoria University as a professor in Dental Art. He has always taken an active interest in his profession, and was honored at the last election by the position of President of the Board. In legislative work his services have been most invaluable in connection with his brother, the advocate of the Board, Mr. Arthur Globensky. In the organization of the College he has taken a leading part, and lectures in French on Dental Prosthetics.

During the French occupation of Canada, the great-grandfather of Dr. Globensky was a distinguished army surgeon, and after 1760 remained to practise in the city of Quebec. In an old almanac he was classified, not only as a general surgeon, but as a specialist under the title of "Blood Letter and Tooth Drawer," the extraction of teeth being the only dentistry performed at the time in this country. The President of the Board may therefore be regarded as the lineal descendant of one who was perhaps the earliest dentist of Canada.

Annotations.

The *Dental Record* (London, Eng.) condemns the privilege enjoyed by a D.D.S. of America, of placing the degree upon the British Register. "Many so-called American dentists are merely Englishmen who have gibed at the very thorough curriculum our profession is safe-guarded by in this country. Failing to obtain the L.D.S., they have gone to some inferior dental college in the States, to return after a two years' course to assume the imposing title of D.D.S. We have pointed out before that no class of persons are more hurt by this iniquitous system than the *bona fide* Americans who are in practice here, and whom everyone welcomes and duly respects when they conduct their profession in a seemly manner." The holders of these degrees possess no such evidence of a good general education as that required for those who hold the L.D.S.; and it is not unlikely that the standard will be raised, for, as matters now stand, there is actually a premium in England upon foreign degrees, and a sort of penalty upon the L.D.S. diploma.

From the *British Journal of Dental Science*, we learn that the General Medical Council is about to issue the following warning to every dentist on the Register:—"Any registered dentist practising for gain, who knowingly and wilfully deposes a person not registered or qualified to be registered under the Dentists' Act to treat professionally on his behalf in any matter requiring professional discretion or skill, any person requiring operations of a surgical character, will be liable to be treated as having been guilty of infamous or disgraceful conduct in a professional respect, and to have his name erased from the Dental Register." How would this work applied to Canada?

The November issue of the transactions of the Odontological Society of Great Britain presents the members with a splendid portrait of Charles S. Tomes, F.L.S., M.R.C.S. Eng., L.D.S. Eng. It is a thoughtful and kindly face.

The Journal of the British Dental Association is always full of interesting matter. The following is naturally no exception:—"The Dental Association of Quebec.—Our Canadian brethren do

not seem to be backward in the onward march of dental progress, and the account recently received of the last meeting of the above Society, recently held at Montreal, must be most encouraging to its members. The report not only shows the financial condition as being the most favorable since its formation, but also that energetic steps are being taken to eradicate advertising, and at the meeting a special motion was carried to the effect 'That this meeting representing the dental profession of the province, express its disapprobation of all unprofessional methods of advertising, which not only in themselves savour of quackery but are resorted to for the purpose of imposing upon the unsuspecting public by false representations.' As far as can be gleaned from the report, 'It was not intended to prevent modest and reasonable advertising, should one wish to do so;' but we think that from the professional standpoint it would be best for the Association to discountenance advertising in any shape or form. It is also interesting to notice that it is now necessary for any person in future wishing to study dentistry, to pass the matriculation for admittance to the study of medicine, and, still further, to attend the required lectures in anatomy, physiology and chemistry, these being given at the McGill and Laval Universities, the one being English and the other French. Perhaps the most interesting feature of the meeting was the settlement of the final arrangement for the foundation of the Dental College; the first of its kind in the province. The lectures on special dental subjects, like those upon general ones, are to be delivered in French and English, thus necessitating a double list of lecturers. The electric light is to be introduced into the premises which are to be utilized by the College, and already the necessaries for the operating and mechanical rooms have been supplied by Drs. Lovejoy and M'Diarmid. The clinical instruction of the students is to be carried out by a staff numbering already over twenty. Everything in the account received points to the fact that nothing has been left undone to make the new departure a success, and we only hope that it may be our pleasure to record from time to time its steady progress."

Reviews.

Materia Medica and Therapeutics. By L. F. WARNER, M.D. \$1.
Lea Bros.

Physiology. By FRED. A. WARNER, M.D. \$1. Lea Bros.

Still they come, and always fresh and welcome. These little volumes of the "Student's Quiz Series" are having increased usefulness every year, and greatly facilitate study, correctness and condensation.

Histology, Pathology, and Bacteriology. A manual for students and practitioners. By BENNET S. BEACH, M.D., Lecturer on above subjects, New York Polyclinic. Series edited by Bern B. Gallandat, M.D. Philadelphia: Lea Brothers & Co. \$1.

Anatomy. A manual for students and practitioners. By FRED. J. BROCKWAY, M.D., and A. O'MALLEY, M.D. Lea Bros. & Co. 367 pages. 15 illustrations. \$1.75.

Transactions of the Illinois State Dental Society Twenty-Eighth Annual Meeting, May, 1892, Chicago. The Dental Review Co. H. D. Justi & Son.

An old familiar face, growing better as it grows older.

Dental Prothesis. Introductory lecture by B. A. GIGRAND, D.D.S., Professor in American College of Dental Surgery, Chicago. Severingham & Bulfurs.

An historical review of much interest.

A Study of the Degeneracy of the Jaws of the Human Race. By EUGENE S. TALBOT, M.D., D.D.S. S. S. White Co., 1892. A reprint from the *Cosmos*, of 63 pages, illustrated.

The Dental Tribune. A newspaper for dentists; issued every Saturday. LOUIS OTTOFY, D.D.S., Editor. Chicago. \$2 a year.

Our active friend has just issued the initial number of the first dental newspaper in the world. Chicago intends to take and keep the lead this year in dentistry, and Dr. Ottofy feels that during the Dental Congress there will be plenty of work for such a paper. We wish him in his deserving object every success.