

etherization would be applied. I therefore gladly accepted an invitation to witness the operation. We repaired to the operating room; the patient was brought in, and during the preliminary examination, and the application of the tourniquet to prevent loss of blood, showed, by indubitable symptoms, the extreme sensibility of the parts, and the tortures he must endure unless protected against them by some extraordinary sedative. When all was ready, a quantity of ether was poured upon a sponge, applied to the nostrils, and its vapor inhaled. While Professor Hayward attended to the inhalation, Dr. H. J. Bigelow stood ready with his instruments to take advantage of the moment when the patient should become insensible to pain, to commence his operation. A very few minutes sufficed for this purpose, as was seen by the impunity with which the mangled limb could then be handled, and the ghastly wound probed and examined.

The "circular cut" was made midway between the ankle and the knee—the usual flaying up of the integuments for one or two inches all round, was completed, the muscle again cut through, the saw applied, and the limb detached in the space of three and a half minutes. No sign or symptom of pain was manifested by the patient. Seven minutes and a half more were taken up in securing the arteries, bringing down and disposing the integuments and removing the bandages that had prevented loss of blood. Dr. Warren Jr. and Dr. Parkman were present, and assisted in the operation. In a few moments after the whole was over and the application of ether discontinued, the patient recovered from his insensibility. He experienced no inconvenience except a little nausea, which was soon relieved; and being questioned as to his sensations during the amputation, said that he had no recollection of anything that had been done.

While still under the effects of ether, after the limb was removed, he had been asked whether he was ready to have his leg taken off, to which he replied "yes—you may do anything you like with me now." It happened that on the very same evening another patient was brought into the Hospital, bruised in the same part, and in the same manner. Upon consultation it was determined at once to amputate. This latter operation I did not witness; but the friend who had accompanied me at first, assured me that the result of the ether was perfect, and that both patients were left doing well.

Should the above plain statement lead any of your readers to examine this subject, and apply it to the more general relief of suffering humanity, the purpose of the writer will have been accomplished.

W. R. J.

THE D.D.S.'S OF THE BALTIMORE "COLLEGE" OF DENTISTRY.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

DEAR SIR,—A very amusing communication appears in your Journal of the 13th inst., affecting to be a reply to certain strictures of mine,

relative to the character of an institution styled the "College of Dental Surgeons." The writer has hit upon a profoundly original mode of defending the establishment with which he is connected—a mode of defence which speaks volumes for the intelligence, the good sense, and the respectability of his "College." Through two pages and a half this "A.M.," "M.D." and "D.D.S." pours forth a little torrent of childish, whimpering, petulant, peevish abuse of that "certain man who signs himself A. C. Castle, M.D.," and then lays down his pen triumphantly, exclaiming—"I have saved the College; alone I did it!"

Mr. Editor, I plead guilty to the awful charge which has been preferred against me. It is quite true that articles of mine have been published in the "London Lancet." I have not a word to urge in my defence. I am quite aware that the crime of writing articles which have received the approbation of the editors of the Lancet, is a damning one in the eyes of the magnates—the most learned "Doctors" of the Baltimore College of Dentistry. I have nothing left but calm submission to my fate.

The modest pretensions of this worthy advocate of the College, will not be at all surprising to the few who know anything at all about that amusing establishment. These Baltimore oracles of dentistry remind me very much of the hangman in Barnaby Rudge, who was continually exclaiming against the "unconstitutional" mode of depriving men of their lives by soldiery, when there was such a sublime institution as Newgate, with himself as "special pathological professor," to do the business! These gentlemen—happy in such a courteous and amiable defender—appear to think that a refusal to submit to their orthodox process of "noosing" is most decidedly "unconstitutional," "unpathological," and unbecoming a gentleman!

No doubt it is annoying that my papers should have been published in the London Lancet. It is really too bad that I should become "notorious" by such nefarious means. However, it is consolatory to reflect, that this gross criminality is not likely to be shared by any member of the "College of Dentistry." From the specimens we have had of the attainments of the "professors," there is not much room for serious apprehension that they will become liable to the awful imputation of being contributors to journals of such "notoriously" bad character as the London Lancet. *They* will continue to shine in the universally-circulated pages of their own Baltimore Journal of Dentistry, whilst such miserable wretches as myself heap perdition on our heads, by contributions to the London Lancet. *They* will chaunt the romantic story of their life in miles of delightful verse,—

"In linked sweetness long drawn out"—

whilst we narrate our dull, prosaic "cases." *They* will vent their petty, infantile spleen, in tones

"Faint as a chicken's note that hath the pip,"

whilst we, doomed in our impenitence, go on writing for the "Boston Medical and Surgical Journal"!

I plead guilty to another awful crime. I did indulge in a little playful humor with regard to the mysterious-looking "D.D.S.," but really I did not imagine that that would have given such mortal offence to gentlemen who have notoriously so great a horror of titles. Judging from his advertisements, the individual who has taken up the cudgels for the College, has a great contempt for titles, and he ridicules the idea of my extraordinary and unheard-of impudence in affixing the initials "M.D." to my signature to a communication addressed to the editor of a medical journal. Well, now, I am not so wicked, after all, as to be insensible to the sufferings of the "D.D.S.'s." I shall not, hereafter, on any account, interpret these letters as meaning "Doctor of Dental Stupidity." What, then, *do* they mean? Doctor of Dental Sagacity? Doctor of Dental Scurillity? Pray good Mr. A.M., M.D., D.D.S., do tell us what you mean by these letters.

What, let me ask, has this College of Dentistry done for the profession? Am I alone in the views which I entertain with regard to it? We all know that the New England States have produced the most eminent and successful surgeon-dentists in this country. Are *they* all members of this "College"? Not at all. The men who really constitute the respectability and worth of the profession have little to do with this "College," and certainly possessed some of the accomplishments which adorn alike professional and social life before this "College" was ever dreamed of for the manufacture of "D.D.S.'s." Hardly was the little fledgling out, when almost every city on the face of the globe was ransacked for objects on whom to bestow the honorary miraculous D.D.S., which was to invest the fortunate possessor with the most extraordinary attainments and virtues. Thus it was, that Sir Samuel Cartwright, Brewster and others, suddenly on awakening found themselves famous! They were actually D.D.S.'s! But, alas!

"'Twas happiness too exquisite to last!"

In an evil hour, deserted by their guardian angels, who mayhap fled in terror from the awful D.D.S., these illustrious men pronounced in favor of amalgam, and immediately the "College," in solemn conclave, *expelled* them from their venerable halls, and thus covered them with ignominy forever! Ah! cruel "College," was it not enough to dub them "D.D.S."?

I am aware, Sir, that your pages ought to be more profitably employed than in a discussion of the merits of this "College;" and I shall not at all events trouble you with any reply to the merely personal invective of your irritable correspondent in Baltimore. Had the "College" been organized on a broad, liberal and independent basis—had its objects been solely the general advancement and elevation of an important department of science—had the silly title of "D.D.S." been left out, and more sensible means employed to attract attention, it would have commanded the regard and patronage of the mass of the profession, who, with myself, stand wholly aloof from it. As it is, I fear it does not even "pay"—the great test, after all, even with "Colleges."

It has not succeeded even in "catching the gudgeons" beyond the limited "haul" which the published list of "Professors" indicates. What success may attend the new association of surgeon-dentists in the great city of New York, now about to be organized, time will show. I hope it will avoid the blunders of the Baltimore "College."

And, now, I leave the "College" and its "A.M.'s," its "M.D.'s," and its "D.D.S.'s," and its most amiable defender. They have not at present much to do, and they are very faithful in doing it. Their motto is, "Tickle me Eleazer, I'll tickle Jahial, and 'the class' will tickle Eleazer." I would not for the world disturb such an interesting process of titillation. Therefore,

"No longer seek their merits to disclose,
Nor draw their frailties from their dread abode!"

I am, &c.

A. C. CASTLE, M.D.

New York, October 25, 1847.

DR. CASTLE'S CASE OF EPILEPSY.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

DEAR SIR,—I have seen, with great surprise, in your Journal of the 13th inst., a communication casting imputations on the authenticity of the case published recently in your pages by Dr. A. C. Castle, of this city. In justice to that gentleman, and in order to rebuke this flagrant attempt to falsify and misrepresent him, I beg leave to inform you that that case was communicated to you by Dr. Castle, *at my request*. I was cognizant of the case, and regarded it as worthy of record, in which opinion I was glad to find that you coincided.

As to the cases published by the same gentleman in the London Lancet, I can say that many of them, also, I knew, and had the pleasure of witnessing the success of Dr. Castle's treatment.

Dr. Castle is too well known in this region to be injured by what I must call this malevolent attack on his veracity. But as the gross charges of your correspondent in Baltimore might possibly gain some credence in other quarters, I deemed it proper to make this brief refutation of them. Doubtless Mr. Bond wrote in a very irritable state of mind, but no paroxysm of passion can excuse such gratuitous assertions as he has made, involving the honor and rectitude of a highly respectable professional gentleman. I am, with great respect, yours, &c.

New York, Oct. 25, 1847.

JAMES A. HOUSTON,

Late Editor "New York Lancet."

[In addition to the above testimonial, there has been received a similar one from Dr. J. Wheeler, ophthalmic surgeon, of New York, who was the subject of one of the cases published in the London Lancet; also a certificate from F. U. Johnston, M.D., President of the New York County Medical Society, of the "professional merits and private worth" of Dr. Castle. A letter from Dr. A. W. Jones, dentist, is sent by him to verify another of the Lancet cases.—ED.]