

development of the best modes of practice in the art and science of dentistry, and, if found practicable, to aid in the establishment of an independent journal devoted to the interests of dental science.

To be eligible for *active* membership, a dentist must be in practice in the State of Pennsylvania and a graduate in dentistry or in medicine, and must have contributed at least one original paper to the published literature of the profession, or have made some other addition to its science or art. *Associate* members must be practitioners of dentistry, and graduates in dentistry or in medicine. The meetings are to be held at the offices or residences of the members.

AMBLER TEES, *Recording Secretary.*

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF DENTAL SCIENCE.

THE annual address before the American Academy of Dental Science was delivered October 30th, 1878, by Charles W. Eliot, LL.D., President of Harvard University. Subject, "The Defects Apparent in the American System of Dental Education."

The fact that dentistry had existed as a distinct calling in the United States for only about seventy years, and had within that time developed as it appears to-day, was considered as a remarkable exhibition of progress. Certainly we can afford a charitable judgment of whatever imperfections in its organization and in its practical workings may yet be found; for the progress of dental science in this country has not only been extraordinarily rapid, but, all things considered, very satisfactory. Among the causes for its rapid growth may be considered the inventive genius of Americans and the hospitality of the American mind to novelties, and largely to the need for dental service as a consequence of the soft, unphosphatic food on which Americans are accustomed to subsist. Americans, knowing the frailty of their teeth, visit the dentist twice or more yearly to know if any operative interference is necessary to *prevent* decay, while an Englishman never consults a dentist unless he has the toothache. Mr. Eliot alluded to the constant increase in the number of dental practitioners as well as of patients; to the increase of periodical literature and of standard works on dentistry, and especially to the increase in the organized means of dental education; to the growing desire in the profession for an improvement in professional status, and for an advance in the standard of dental education, for the accomplishment of which the chief reliance must be upon the institutions which undertake to educate dental students.

American dental schools demand no preliminary examination, while those of England require several university examinations. This

simple fact will in time result in the superiority of English dentists. President Eliot urged the necessity for a course of three years instead of two; the discontinuance of the recognition of five years of practice as an equivalent for any portion of the period of study, and the deposit of a certificate of private instruction. The practitioner granting such certificate should also be required to show that he possessed the proper facilities for instruction. He thought the exclusion of unqualified men by any system of public registry such as obtains in other countries was not possible here, and that educated public opinion, and not legislation, must be looked to for a cure of the evil.

The speaker commented unfavorably on the recent action of several medical schools who have undertaken to confer both the dental and medical degrees after three courses, arguing that, as not more than three-fifths of the studies were in common, and as a three-years' course was absolutely necessary to the medical degree, therefore the two degrees could not be granted without lowering the standard of both.

While it is hardly to be looked for at present that a majority of dental students should be first thoroughly educated in medicine, and then in dentistry, yet constant effort should be directed to the improvement of dental schools.

At the close of the president's address, resolutions were adopted affirming the binding obligation of the code of ethics with reference to advertising, professional intercourse, etc.

EDWARD N. HARRIS, D.D.S.,
Corresponding Secretary.

EDITORIAL.

SPECIMEN NUMBER.

THIS number of the DENTAL COSMOS will be sent to every English-speaking dentist in the world whose name and address we have. As heretofore, we shall not send the Cosmos regularly to any except actual subscribers. Old subscribers who have not received the February number will understand that their subscriptions have expired, and will oblige us by forwarding their renewals at once.

Owing to an unusual accumulation of original contributions, we have added eight pages (making sixty-four) of reading matter to this issue.

We once more invite subscriptions from all who desire to avail themselves of the advantages of a first-class dental journal.