



# THE PROGRESSIVE DENTIST

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**BROOKLYN, N. Y.**

# The Progressive Dentist

Vol. 2

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No. 2

## THE RAFKIN GOLD-SHELL CROWN

By Dr. Maurice M. Rafkin

Considerable discussion has been going on for the past few years as to the best way of obtaining a perfect gold shell crown. Several methods have been devised but none, to my mind, are perfect, I have therefore devised a method by which I believe the best results can be obtained.

This method permits a perfect adaptation, contour and articulation, while at the same time possesses the strength that is required.

A gold shell crown should not be made for a tooth anterior to the bicuspid. I will therefore describe the steps to be taken in the making of a gold shell crown on a bicuspid or molar.

But before describing my crown, I want to touch on some of the faults of the shell crowns in use.

### The (ordinary) Seamless Crown

(1) The seamless crown is never made to fit the tooth, but the tooth is ground down to fit the crown, and the perfect fit required is impossible.

(2) A seamless crown is always stretched in fitting it over the tooth because of the pliability and thinness of the shell, and therefore there is always a space at the neck between the crown and the tooth.

(3) The shell is very often cracked at the gingival margin, without the operator knowing it. This fault is recognized only when the patient comes back with a loose crown or bridge underneath which the teeth are found to be badly decayed.

(4) When a seamless crown is to be used as an abutment for a bridge, in taking the impression or bite when the crown is in position, it may be moved in any direction, and thus a wrong articulation is obtained in many cases.

### The Two-Piece Crown

Some dentists consider the two piece crown a better fitting one than the one previously described and it surely is but it has its faults.

(1) It has not a perfect fit, contour, contact point and strength.

(2) It discolors at the seams, after it is in the mouth for some time.

(3) Is weak at the points where soldered.

(4) This crown also does not fit at the neck as required.

### The Cast Crown

The cast crown which is considered the best to date by some members of the profession has its faults.

(1) That part of the platinum band which goes under the gingival margin, and being of a very thin gauge, often curls up after the crown has been cast and when fitting it to the tooth.

(2) It is difficult to burnish the platinum band around the neck of the tooth, and if not perfectly burnished it will leave a space for food to deposit and cause the gum tissue to recede and finally a loosening of the tooth takes place.

(3) This crown is very objectionable in case of trouble with the tooth on account of the difficulty encountered in trying to remove or perforate it when entrance is required into the tooth.

(4) The carving of this crown requires an expert. Otherwise it is artificial and poor in contact points after it is cast, ground and polished.

### The Rakfin Crown

The following method I use in making my crown:

After the tooth has been devitalized a bite and impression are taken of the tooth. This is poured and articulated upon a small bridge articulator. The plaster tooth in question is built out in wax to its proper articulation, contour and general form. This plaster tooth is sandpapered mesially and distally. A plaster mould is then made, S. S. White Mellotes metal is poured into it to obtain a die. A gold shell is then swedged over it. The Mellotes metal is boiled out of the gold shell in boiling water. The crown thus swedged is a perfect reproduction of the tooth when it was in good condition.

The tooth is then ground down in the mouth making the walls parallel and without the cusps. It is then grooved mesially and distally at the morsal surface. A wire measure is then taken with the dentimeter. A gold or platinum band of 36 gauge is then made, soldered and fitted to the tooth in the mouth, and the band burnished into the grooves of the morsal surface of the tooth. These grooves on the band are then filled in with 22 karat solder. The projections thus resulting and which fit perfectly into the grooves on the morsal surface prevent any movement of the band upon the tooth.

An impression and bite are then taken with the band in position. This is poured and articulated as before described. The gold shell crown is then trimmed and adjusted over the plaster tooth with the gold or platinum band on, just as it is desired to have it fit over the tooth in the mouth.

The crown, in placing it over the band on the plaster model, fits up to the gingival margin. The plaster covering that part of the gold or platinum band which is to go slightly under the free margin of the gum, is cut away, and the exposed portion of the band is then waxed together with the crown. The two are then cut out from the model and invested, exposing the waxed portion only. This is then soldered with 22 karat solder.

By this a very strong and knife-edge crown is obtained. This knife edge being very smooth, of an even bevel and snugly fitting at the neck portion of the tooth, need be made to go no further than a 32nd of an inch under the free margin of the gum. Such a crown does not irritate the gum as do all other crowns.

The crown is then polished and fitted in the mouth in the ordinary manner. In cases of large pieces of bridge work the space between the band and the shell should be filled in with solder.

This crown can be removed from the tooth after it is cemented on as easily as any ordinary gold shell crown, or it can be drilled through at the morsal surface in case of any trouble that may arise with the tooth after the crown has been on for some time. The cusp portion of the crown, by the way, should always contain solder.

This method may seem rather lengthy in description but it is not when actually worked out. The real advantage of this crown over any of the others can only be fully appreciated after it has been tried.



## PERSONAL IDENTITY

By Dr. Paul Sigmund Tarler

The Fool: "Oh Seer, I pray thee, who am I?"

The Seer: "Verily thou art the Fool."

The Fool: "If perchance thy wisdom covered me as with a cloak, wouldst still know me?"

The Seer: "Yea, I would penetrate thy disguise and know thee for what thou art; a fool."

\* \* \*

In trying criminal cases and very often in civil ones, the establishing of the identity of a person is sometimes of the utmost importance. It may be the living person whose identity must be proved or the absolute identification of the corpse or even parts of a corpse.



The subject of identification is quite a large one in Legal Medicine but the little space allotted here, compels me to treat only of that phase of it which is of interest to the dental surgeon: namely, identification by means of the teeth.

When called upon to establish the identity or non-identity of a corpse, the dentist of the deceased person has many means by which he can reach his conclusions. For instance; the condition of the alveolar process; the presence or loss of teeth; presence of plates or bridge-work or the markings which these artificial substitutes have left; also fillings and irregularities in the arrangement of the teeth. If the practitioner has records, (and by the way, every dentist should keep them), or models to substantiate his opinions of the body's identity, well and good; but if no such proofs are available he should be very discreet and cautious in presenting his evidence before the court.

The strength of the dentist's opinion depends on the length of time that has elapsed between the last examination of the supposed patient and his death. The greater the length of time, the weaker the testimony, for conditions within the mouth change in course of time. Teeth extracted cause changes in the alveolar process and gums. It follows therefore that the witness should proceed with caution, especially when public clamor and passion is so great sometimes in its demands for a victim as to twist the facts.

An old and very interesting case illustrating the importance of dental testimony in identification is that of Elizabeth Ross, who was tried at the Old Bailey in London in 1831 for the murder of Caroline Walsh.

The son of the prisoner swore that his mother had suffocated the missing woman. He saw her body in the cellar and the next day his mother left the house with a sack. It was just at a period when murders were being committed to supply anatomical material for the medical schools of London.

Due to some peculiar coincidents, the next evening after the supposed disappearance of Caroline Walsh, a woman in a very filthy and ragged state was found lying in the street in the neighborhood of the home of the accused. She declared her name to be Caroline Walsh. On account of a fractured hip, she was conveyed to the London Hospital where she died.

At the trial in December the prisoner insisted that this woman was the one she was accused of having murdered and in the face of her son's evidence it was now essential, in order that justice be done, to prove absolutely the identity or non-identity of the two women. Was Caroline Walsh who had disappeared the Caroline Walsh who had died in the London Hospital?

The names of the two women were alike. The spot where the woman was picked up was in the vicinity of the home where the missing one boarded. The dresses described by the acquaintances of both were almost alike. One was known to have had in her possession a certain basket, so was the other. The prisoner was certain of acquittal.

The body of the female who had died in the hospital was exhumed and viewed by the two grand-daughters of the missing C. W. They both swore that it was not the body of their grandmother. A medical examination showed an entire obliteration of the alveolar process, proving loss of the teeth long before death, whereas witnesses testified that the missing C. W., though 84 years of age had healthy incisors of striking peculiarity. Had putrefaction set in causing entire loss of the features, this fact would still stand out prominently.

It was proven beyond a reasonable doubt that the missing C. W. was not the C. W. who had died in the hospital and Elizabeth Ross paid the penalty of her crime on the gallows.



Mayor Gaynor has appointed Dr. Ira S. Wile a member of the Board of Education. Dr. Wile is in the children's department of the Vanderbilt Clinic and is the editor of the Medical Review of Reviews and of the department of surgical sociology of the American Journal of Surgery.

To him Mayor Gaynor wrote: "I am appointing you a member of the Board of Education. My object in doing so is to have you enter systematically into the work of examining into the health of the children in the public schools and taking a scientific means of prevention and cure. Among other things the eyes, ears and teeth of the children should be carefully looked into. It is almost impossible to have a healthy body without good teeth."

:: — :: REFLECTIONS :: — ::

By Dr. L. E. Evslin.

Many a molar could be saved if the poor patient would be richer and could afford to pay for the threatment of same.

\* \* \*

As things are, it is better for the dentist to have the offending molar removed, the adjacent teeth crowned and a bridge constructed in a hurry. Of course, this course of proceeding is not the very best for the patient, but the poor dentist needs the money. Who said that the patient's and the practitioner's interests are in harmony in our wonderful society?

A little less crowning and a good deal more filling would in all probability save more teeth and save them for a longer period of time, but the most the poor dentist can charge his poor patient for a filling would be \$2.00, while he can charge \$5.00 for a crown.

The fact that the crown demands more time is not essential, first, because these sort of crowns are turned out like hot cakes; second, time with the poor dentist does not count, since his working day is somewhere between fifteen and twenty hours per day. How about striking for an eight hour day? The average dentist's day is long, his work indoors and unhygienic in the extreme. Most of them, after life-long hard labor, die poor men and yet they consider themselves superior to the working class.

\* \* \*

Let the title "Doctor" to your name not mislead you; you are a member of the present society, and as such suffer its wrongs as well as every body else. Get in line, study the present conditions and get into the fight for the right cause.

\* \* \*

It is curious to see the oracles of our profession, discuss in their papers on the oral hygiene question, where they are forced to consider cause and effect, and unwillingly touch upon the economic side of the question. They walk around and around the question for fear they may touch on the dangerous social side of it, which may bring them, to very dangerous conclusions. Courage gentlemen, courage!

\* \* \*

In the first place, you cannot be scientific in your discussions on questions of public health without considering, at the same time, the underlying causes of disease which are social causes; in the second place, do not fear that you will lose your rich clientele because you have convinced yourselves of the social wrongs of our present society. Many intellectually bigger men than you are, also dependent upon the good graces of the rich, have affiliated themselves with the radical movement for social progress when they wished to remain scientific and truthful.



Different teeth in the same mouth will behave differently, although treated under the same conditions. In one case the pulp will die promptly, and its neighbor, with the same arsenious application, will cause excruciating pain. In one tooth the canal can be filed and the operation completed promptly, while its neighbor will suddenly and without any apparent cause, get cranky with periostitis.

\* \* \*

Every school ought to have a dental clinic, and the work supervised by a special Dental Committee which should work in conjunction with the Education Department. The future generations are the future life and wealth of a nation or country. Seventy-five percent of the children are of poor parentage today. If the state were really wise, it would invest in this growing wealth. Wealthy children would make so much more productive working capital. Why should the state take less interest in poor children's teeth, for instance, than the teeth of the sailors and soldiers? Surely there would be less work for the Navy and the Army dentists if the children's teeth were taken care of during school time.

\* \* \*

It is surprising how intelligent men will not try to figure out the reason for the degrading poverty on one hand, and the tremendous wealth accumulating in the hands of a few on the other.



## DENTAL CLINICS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1. The introduction of dental service into public schools can only be accomplished by the personal efforts of dentists, seconded by educators and physicians.

2. Secure the good will of your state, county and city superintendent, and, above all, enlist the cooperation of the President and board of education.

3. Interest them in the subject of dental clinics in public schools.

4. Gain permission from the county, city and local superintendents to present the subject of the dental clinics to the board of education.

5. Address the board of education in the brightest and most plausible manner possible. Talk English! Cram your mind with facts, figures and logic!

6. Explain that dental caries attacks about 90 per cent, of the teeth of children between the age of six and fifteen years.

7. Mention that the bacilli of tuberculosis, cancer, syphilis, tetanus, septicemia, spinal meningitis, pneumonia, diphtheria, scarlet fever and other deadly diseases may infect the child through the mouth and teeth.

8. Describe how defective teeth produce reflex nerve irritation, resulting in obscure and excruciating cases of neuralgia which unfit the pupil for study.

9. Records prove that pupils possessing defective teeth require nine months more of study each, on an average, to graduate from public schools than scholars with sound teeth.

10. The amount of suffering directly and indirectly caused by neglected teeth of school children is beyond computation.

11. Conclusion: Therefore, regard for mitigating human ills as well as economic considerations should impel school authorities to bestow needed attention upon the teeth of pupils. This attention can best be given by establishing free dental clinics for school children.

12. After reaching a satisfactory agreement with the proper authorities, make the personal examinations of pupils' teeth in a systematic manner at the time appointed, using blanks properly prepared for that purpose.

13. Send a copy of the results of the examination to the parent.

14. In a genial but forcible manner urge the necessity for cleansing the teeth daily with a toothbrush and powder.

15. Call attention to the necessity for periodical and systematic oral examinations.

16. If the pupil has no dentist, do the work in the dental clinic established for the public school.

17. Use your common sense and knowledge of human nature in working out details.

New York City could save between "three and four million dollars each year" on school appropriations if it were not for "laggards." Some of the loss comes from defective mentality", but 90 per cent, of it comes from defective physical condition. Henry C. Jenkins, principal of the largest public school in the world, says, after examining the teeth of the pupils in his school: "Eighty per cent. of those pupils examined had no other defect whatever except defective teeth."

Alphonso Irwin, D. D. S.

Chairman N. J. State Dental Society Committee on Free Dental Clinics to work in conjunction with the State Board of Education.

— The Dental Scrap-Book.

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### THE NOTORIOUS REV. HILL.

The minister of a high class society church, who is commonly known as a professional soul grafter and many times branded as a hypocrite, has the gall to join hand in hand with the other humble servant of capitalism, Father John L. Bedford in saying that Socialists should be shot or electrocuted.

In view of Mr. Hill's past life and present occupation no one can really expect any thing different from him. He is a product of the class he represents and he represents it well. He is the speaking tube of the parasites of society, the very class that find no room in real religion and against which Christianity in its childhood was a weapon.

To give too much attention to Mr. Hill would be a waste of time. He has been analyzed by the general public long ago. He is the kind of a gentleman absolutely necessary in order that the Kingdom of Mammon with its exploitation, graft and extortion may flourish and the kind of a gentleman who prayed for Taft at the Convention in Chicago.

Mr. Hill is right in place well fitted for the position of playing an underhanded game with the ethics of Christianity and Religion.

# The Progressive Dentist

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### EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

A splendid article by Dr. Warbasse, which appears also in this issue of the Progressive Dentist, exposes in an unmistakable manner among other things, how economic conditions deprive the average medical practitioner of the possibility to avail himself of all modern appliances which science and discovery enables him to call to his aid.

No less is the dentist held down by economic conditions. The X-Ray apparatus for an instance, which is so essential to successful dental treatment remains only an ideal in the mind of the average dentist, and thus the overwhelming number of patients patronizing dentists are excluded from the blessings made possible by that instrument.

Dr. Warbasse, who in this respect is in the same line of thought with many leading medical authorities, recommends that the physician be engaged by the state as its medical servant.

This magazine since its establishment has advocated this method with regard to dentistry. Claiming that the dentist being assured a fair remuneration, would have no other purpose in his practice than to serve all those who come under his care to the best of his ability and according to latest known methods. Equipments would be provided by the state and medicine and dentistry would be practiced only in fully equipped offices. Incidentally, such acquisition by the state of the dentists' services would naturally eliminate all dental parlor methods and the illegal practice of dentistry.

However this method of practice may be far off and we should endeavor to ameliorate conditions as much as possible at the present. A thorough understanding among the great mass of dentists, if such changes are desired, is therefore self evident.

One of the most important steps to be taken is to wipe out all illegal practitioners. Not because they curtail profits of the legalized dental fraternity but because they deal out the worst kind of quackery. And in no few cases put the legal practitioner at the mercy of competing for his fee with that set by the illegal practitioner which leads to inferior service even at the hands of a licensed dentist.

We call upon every licensed dentist to join the dental society in his district and there agitate for a united dental profession. This can have no other effect than bring forth innumerable blessings for the profession and the public.

L. R., D. D. S.

## STUDENTS' DEPARTMENT

All Communications intended for this department should be addressed to:

Herman Mendelson, 806 Sixth Ave., New York

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### STUDENTS, AND STUDENTS

They are all professional students — all of this buzzing, shouting, excited crowd of young men. They have just come out of the lecture-hall where their minds have been tortured by cruel men for a time that seemed never to end. But these are determined fellows. Failure to "know" the subjects spells many, many extremely inconvenient things for all of them and want and grinding struggle to most of them. They go home, then, doggedly determined to study and "know" everything given to them. They drill, cram and grind until the strange terrifying studies are somehow tucked away in the memory whence they are made to appear and perform stunts at the proper time and place.

Almost every one of us students study that way. We go along committing to memory things as they are given to us verbatim. And when we succeed in doing that, we sigh a deep sigh of relief and are satisfied. No spirit of inquiry, no original questioning, no looking into matters on our own account, no investigating. The most unsettled questions of science are taken up and "studied" as established facts. The problems that are still baffling the most searching masterminds as well as those mysteries that will probably forever challenge human understanding, are either ignored or, - which is worse - made to remember along with other matter as settled, undisputed facts.

The professor explains the Atomic theory. Although he does not forget to emphasize the fact that this is only theory, and that new theories have lately been advanced more rational and more probable, we jot it down into our note-books very faithfully, memorize, and rush to the next subject.

Brown and Smith are both students studying histology in the same class. To Brown the microscope is daily revealing wonderful things. He watches the tiny organisms with deep delight and wonderment. He sees in the little cell the eternal riddle of life; the great, perplexing mysteries that mark the borderland of the Unknown. He sees the silent workings of nature and contemplates on that cosmic omnipresent Intelligence that provides an amoeba with powers of locomotion, food-assimilation, and reproduction. But, alas for poor Brown. While being absorbed in all these thoughts he forgets to learn of the difference between "cytoplasm", "spongioplasm", "hyaloplasm" etc. And when the examination day comes Brown fails to pass.

Smith, on the other hand, is a practical fellow who knows what he wants and goes for it. He at once begins cutting up the histology into "important" and "unimportant" parts. Needless to say that practical Smith studies only the "important" parts, and later finds the examination exceedingly easy.

Yet, under existing conditions I do not see how we can study and complete our professional career in any other way. There is absolutely no room, no time for original research, not even sufficient time to mentally digest what others have found out for us. Failure of passing an examination means too much to allow of "taking chances". The dread of failing is ever-present and haunts us in our dreams. And the surest way of passing and get rid of all this annoying business, is to memorize and be able afterwards to repeat automaton-like all subjects.

What sort of professionals will such students make?

David Tabak, 14 N. Y. C. D.



## BOOK REVIEWS

**Dental Laws Condensed.** A brief guide to the Requirements of Dental Examiners from Applicants for a license to practice Dentistry in the United States of America and Island Possessions Canada and the Provinces, also the leading civilized Countries throughout the World. Library Edition, quarter Morocco \$1.50 net. By Alphonso Irwin, D. D. S. Camden, N. J. 1912.

Dr. Irwin has rendered the dental profession a great service by compiling this book. While he does not claim that the information is complete or perfect, it must be admitted nevertheless that it is the first attempt to compile and place before the profession the requirements of the various state boards of this country and abroad.

The requirements will no doubt change from time to time which will require revised editions of this work. As it stands to day it is up-to-date at the present time and it will be of great value to students contemplating taking various state board exams and to practitioners who desire to change their place of practice.

All students and members of the profession ought to encourage Dr. Irwin in his work by purchasing a copy of his book.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Dear Editor:—

I have just received two copies of the October number of the Progressive Dentist which you so kindly sent me, and for which I thank you. I am certain that I shall find the magazine interesting especially your article on "Occupational Diseases".

With kind regards, I am,

Fraternally yours

S. John Block  
attorney at law.

\* \* \*

Dear Editor:—

I accidentally came across a copy of the Progressive Dentist, today, and was delighted to know that such a publication (its sphere of action considered) was in existence.

If you can send me a few sample copies, I will distribute them at my college.

Yours for progress  
P. S. Haley Ph. G., D. S.

San Francisco, Cal.

\* \* \*

Dear Editor:—

I notice in the Chicago World that you are publishing a dental magazine in the interest of socialism.

There are in this state a large number of dentists who are interested in socialism and who would undoubtedly subscribe if they knew about this magazine. You might as well reach as large a number of dentists as possible, and I would suggest that you run a three line advertisement in one or more of the leading dental magazines, and I believe that you will make more than enough to pay the cost besides extending your influence.

Fraternally

Dr. C. B. Warner,  
Urbana, Ill.

Chairman Publicity Committee of  
National Dental Association.

\* \* \*

Dear Editor:—

I congratulate you upon having such a bright and wide-awake Dental Journal and for the very worthy aims it stands for. I wish you success.

Yours truly,

A. Irwin, D. D. S.

Member of the New Jersey State Board of Registration.

## WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH THE MEDICAL PROFESSION?

By James P. Warbasse, M. D.

[The article we print below is a good analysis of the economic conditions that prevent the medical practitioner from practicing his profession to the best of his ability and thus give the public the service they are entitled to. The analogy between the medical profession and the dental in this respect is so alike that with an imaginary change of the words, physician for dentist the able arguments of Dr. Warbasse apply with equal force to them. We hope every reader of the "Progressive Dentist" will read this article carefully and let us know what he thinks of it.

Editor]

The science of medicine has made wonderful progress in the past twenty-five years much knowledge has been added, and its capacity to help the sick and preserve the well has been greatly increased; but the average patient, with the average ill, who consults the average doctor does not get the benefit of it. This is because the doctor cannot afford the pains to give it, nor the patient the money to pay for it.

Most doctors and most patients are poor: and nearly all doctors and patients live in the fear of poverty, which is almost as bad as being poor. The poor man is always a dangerous person. It is the same, whether it be doctor or plumber who feels the pinch of poverty. The poor doctor is urged toward quackery, abortions, and illy-advised treatments; the plumber, out of a job, easily becomes a "hold-up" man. The fact that patients are poor means that they demand cheap cures, to gratify which the doctor too often must play the part of a charlatan.

The discussion of the causes of poverty is not within the scope of this article, but I believe poverty is capable of elimination from society, just as I believe that smallpox, typhoid fever, and tuberculosis are. There is abundant wealth for all, and there is no good reason why the working class, which produces the wealth, should have the least of it neither is there reason nor justice that the man who works faithfully at useful labor should live and die in poverty.

There are many things which once were private enterprises, much exploited for profit, but which now have been taken out of the hands of competitive business, and are controlled by the people. As examples of the socialized necessities may be mentioned the public schools, the high-ways water supply, street cleaning, and sewage disposal. The air for our lungs remains public property, but the food, oil, coal and wood have been taken away from the people and not yet restored. All of these are important; so is the public health. Some day the care for the public

health will be organized from top to bottom throughout as a public service, and we shall have each district with its medical corps. The sanitarian will be the strong man. His first business will be to keep his district as free from sickness as possible. His second business will be to keep his death rate low. This he will accomplish with the co-operation of the district hygienists, internists, surgeons, and other specialists.

The criminal now, receives the attention of the State, why not the sick man? The two have more in common than is yet realized. Society is beginning to acknowledge that the criminal is more sinned against than sinning. He is a victim of social maladjustment. Society is responsible for him. It made him what he is. This is equally true of the sick man. If society did not directly inflict him with his disease, it is apt to be the case that he is suffering as the result of lack of education; or his disease is the result of the wretched economic conditions imposed upon him. The sick man, the man out of a job, and the criminal are equally social problems. Society must soon answer in the affirmative the question that has come down through slavery and feudalism, "Am I my brother's keeper?" It must learn the meaning of the old Gospel that "No man liveth unto himself alone."

It is owed to the sick man, just as much as to the criminal, the insane, or the idiot, that society treat him as its especial obligation. How much more should this be the case with the child-bearing woman, who is now left in the hour of her travail to the chances of medical traffic for profit!

When the workingman's house is on fire, the community provides for him the most effective measures which wealth can secure to avert disaster. When his baby is stricken with disease, he is left to the mercy of commercial exploitation. Property, as an outgrowth of feudal tendencies, is still regarded by lawmakers as more precious than human life. The socialized fire-fighters prosper, as the fire is quickly and effectively extinguished; the commercialized disease fighter prospers as the patient is saved with the greatest amount of fuss and the greatest expense that the employer can, with satisfaction, be mulcted of. This latter, fortunately, is not yet the invariable rule in medical practice. Let us say it is an exception to the rule. But the fact is not to be disputed that "business methods" in medicine are steadily on the increase, as the pinch of economic necessity becomes greater.

Municipalities that have moved forward a step now have bureaus of fire prevention. Some day more public attention will be given to the prevention of disease. If the sick man is to be the case of the people, and if the State is to be held responsible for him, surely it should have a still greater concern for the well man, for of the two the latter is the more important.

The doctor has his talents to sell. He is in the market. The competition is fierce. Most doctors are capable and able to deliver the goods. But comparatively rarely can they afford to give the time to do the best possible thing for the patient. As a business enterprise, the practice of medicine—an occupation capable of most unselfish and beneficent activity—degrades its practitioner to the necessity of frittering away precious time in placating the whims of hysterical females, recounting his own prowess, animadverting upon his competitors, and stultifying himself with the mediocrity of conformity. The interest of business demands it. The general practitioner who neglects the methods of the tradesman, even though he gives to his patients the benefit of surpassing skill and knowledge, is apt to languish for a clientele. An unnecessary equipage, entailing a serious drain upon his finances if often one of the "successful" physician's burdens. It is difficult, nay, impossible for him to do otherwise. He is surrounded by the competitive system, and, unless he conforms to the methods of the warfare about him, he must go down.

There are physicians with independent incomes, the results of the fortunes of others, and there are those whose unusual talents bring them so much work as to place them outside the circle of competition. Both of these are exceptional. The doctors, along with all who have to work for wages, are feeling the effects of the gradual gravitation of the means of the production of wealth into the hands of the few, and the resulting growing discrepancy between the rewards for honest work and the cost of living.

It was not many years ago that a workingman who had a steady job was not thought of as a poor man, and ultimately he owned a home of his own. Today the reverse is the case. To say that a man is a workingman is equivalent to saying that he is a poor man. It requires but a few days of idleness to exhaust his surplus store, and then he must accept charity, steal, or starve. As to hard work earning him rest in his old age, it does not come except as the dole of charity.

Let us not make the mistake in this connection of pointing to the public service as corrupt, and politics as more corrupt. They have been corrupt, and they will continue to be, so long as surrounded by the capitalistic, competitive system. But when the people own the necessary means of production, when they own the socially necessary corporations, when the fundamental movement to abolish poverty is instituted, then the chief corrupting influences will be removed. The corruption of public officials is accomplished mainly by business interests. It is the great corporations that corrupt our legislative bodies. This is so well recognized that we grow indifferent to it, and the horror of its consequences scarcely sinks into the public conscience. The express companies are, but the Post Office Department is not corrupting legislatures. Private

corporations are corrupting the Post Office Department, but the public is not interested in corrupting itself.

The Medical Corps of the Army and Navy are removed from the field of commercial competition, and although surrounded by the pernicious influences of the competitive system, they maintain a high standard of efficiency. The inconsistency of our method is that the medical treatment of soldiers is socialized. Soldiers receive the best of medical attention, not as a charity, but as a right. But the laboring man and woman—and child—are left without such consideration. They who do the work of the world, and without whom no army could be assembled, are called "hands," and are consumed as so much raw material to be fed to the flames of commerce. The nearest society comes to giving them the attention that it accords to its soldiers is when abject poverty overtakes them. Then they may have bestowed upon them, by the Departments of Charities and Correction, medical attention.

Some day the workers, who create the nation's wealth, and the women who bear the children, will be appreciated as being of an importance equal, at least, to that of the soldier. Our civilization has not yet reached that point, for the worker has only just emerged from serfdom, while the soldier has behind him the prestige of many thousand years of fatuous superiority.

When the practice of medicine is taken out of the realm of commercial competition, the aptitude of the physician may then be considered. At present there is no vocational selection with reference to adaptability. In the public service there is. In medical practice there is dreadful waste of talent. There is no means for selecting and appointing to be a surgeon the man best qualified for surgery. It is largely a matter of chance. The result is that men who should be alienists are surgeons, and men with wonderful natural aptitude for surgery are general practitioners.

The socialization of medicine does not mean that there shall be no private practitioners. Undoubtedly there will be, just as there will be private business enterprises in fields which do not involve the necessities of life, or which spring up because of individual preference or expression. But whatever springs up outside the State, if it is desirable for all of the people, will find itself shortly taken over by the public. A physician of some special talent, or anarchistic taste, may prefer to withhold himself from the State and stand alone. Patients should continue to have the privilege of delivering themselves into the hands of private enterprises, just as now, if they so desire.

Quackery is one of the results of our competitive system. The patent medicine business depends upon advertising. Competition compels the newspapers to collusion with this class of crime. Self-medication and



the resort to quackery are encouraged as business enterprises by all the powers of business as well as by the economic necessities of the patient. Give the workingman the privileges of competent medical advice without cost, precede this by the education that is now denied him, and he will spend little money on quackery. Even though he might be inclined to, there should be no quackery for him to patronize. In a country socialized in the interest of the people, and the god of business profits cast down from its throne, a league for the freedom of quackery could not exist.

The socialization of the care of the public health is not going to check scientific competition. It is going to stimulate it. The greatest scientific advancements in medicine are not now coming from the field of the commercial struggle for existence occupied by the medical practitioner. They are coming from the men who, by public or private means, have been removed from its blighting influence. The financial reward has not been the object which has stimulated the great medical discoveries. Now it is well recognized that the doctor who is engaged in the competitive struggle for a livelihood is the least likely to contribute to the progress of science. Surgery is the last exception, but it is rapidly becoming commercialized, and soon its best progress will depend upon the financially independent workers.

Institutions endowed by private means or supported by the State, institutions removed from the field of business competition by virtue of the extraordinary talents of their workers, and branches of the government maintaining medical departments are the sources to which we now look for the best advancement of medical science.

Servetus and Harvey were not spurred on to the discovery of the blood by the expectation of profits. One was burned at the stake and the other was mobbed for his pains. Read the life of Pasteur, the founder of bacteriology and the science of infections, and see how utterly free from the glimmer of gold is the work of this great man. Yellow fever, malaria, typhoid, tuberculosis, hookworm disease, sleeping sickness, and rabies have had their secrets discovered and the possibility of their mastery demonstrated by scientific men competing not for profit, but for service. That the "curse of gold" appeared in the development of anesthesia is the one stigma upon this great boon; but had the dirty question of profit never entered, we should have had anesthesia just as soon.

The whole history of medicine, with its splendid list of martyrs, is a glorious refutation of the sophistry that competition for profit is important to human progress. The competitive system, which surrounds and harasses medical advancement, hindered it from the beginning, and retards it still.

When humanity throws off the burden of competition for the necessities of life; when the distribution of wealth is regulated by the deserts and needs of the people; when human life and happiness shall be the object of solicitude of the State, the profession of medicine will take its place as the great conservator of the most precious of the nation's natural resources.

The matter with the medical profession is that the doctor is a private tradesman engaged in a competitive business for profit. He should be a public servant. His importance to the people and the value to the nation of their physical well being demands it, and some day will receive it.

“New York Sunday Call”



## SOCIALISM AT MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

(Continued from the October issue).

Up to the year of 1910-1911 what interest had been taken was largely such as students would show. They wanted to do, but did not know what to do. At this time, however, there happened something which gave to this group not only new impulse, but direction for further efforts.

### Faculty Member Let Out.

Dr. William E. Bohn, a member of the university faculty of the rhetoric department, because of his alleged activity in political propaganda for socialism, was dismissed from the faculty. Though his dismissal was a serious blow, serious enough to check for a time all activity on the part of the student members, nevertheless the setback was only temporary, only a lull before the storm. The beginning of 1910 saw but little activity, except in the nature of preparation for the organization that was to come.

By the middle of the year the organization was running full blast. The Rev. Carl S. Patton, formerly of the Congregational Church, gave his advice and support, as did the members of the university faculty. A lecture on "Socialism and Art," by Dr. R. W. Sellars, gave the members much encouragement. Another was given by Dr. W. W. Florer, a member of the university faculty, who, it has been claimed by Socialists, has done more than any other one man in the State to advance Socialist propaganda with his anti-Socialist lecture. Another successful lecture was given by Alexander Irvine, once a famous pulpit orator, now Socialist agitator, to whom the society gives the credit for the wonderful growth of the movement in the University of Michigan. This closed the year, but various and detailed plans were laid by a committee appointed to work during the summer months. Increased membership had become an assured thing. In addition to this, a problem of greater importance presented itself. The attention attracted by the heated discussion that had followed Dr. Florer's lecture was more than any one had bargained for. Students and faculty and townspeople suddenly found themselves interested in Socialism to such an extent that the trustees of the Congregational Church decided that sanctity of the parlors of the church was seriously in danger, as long as they offered shelter to the Intercollegiate Socialist Society, and the society was asked to give up its privilege of meeting there.

### Some Ups and Downs.

The University Young Men's Christian Association then offered them the use of one of the rooms in McMillan Hall, but before the end of the year it was discovered that the University Y. M. C. A. had in turn been crowded out of its quarters, and so it was said that the fact that it had given shelter to the Intercollegiate Socialist Society was used as a slander against the Christian Association.

So once more the Socialists found themselves in the street. Then came the fall of 1911. There were thirty members at the beginning of the year. Meetings were held in the parlors of the Unitarian Church, secured largely through the efforts of the minister of that church, Dr. Percy M. Dawson. Officers were elected as follows: Executive committee, R. W. Sellars, Percy Dawson, W. M. Nelson; corresponding secretary, Geo. H. Bishop; recording secretary, O. C. Marckwardt; treasurer, Salome T. Marckwardt.

An increasing membership made necessary and possible a greater and greater activity, as well as a clearer idea as to the function of the society. And the function is: "We recognize that because of its peculiar position in our social organism, no university, as such, can be expected to approach our modern social problems with that sympathy necessary for any adequate solution of them. The class room should serve no other purpose than offer opportunity for dispassionate study. The professor must not take sides.

"Therefore it is as students and future citizens that this group is banded together for the purpose of giving these problems not only intelligent but sympathetic interest. They are to form the nucleus of all activity to promote an intelligent discussion and understanding of all problems, social and political, that confront us today. We are in the business of making citizens."

The society gets some of the best students on the campus, over one-fourth of its members belonging to honor societies in the university, a scholarship exceeding in proportion that of any other social organization at Michigan. It is interesting to know that no fraternity boy or sorority girl was ever a member of the Intercollegiate Socialist Society.

#### Dr. Florer's Compliment.

Dr. W. W. Florer, professor of German in the university, in a talk recently, said to the members: "They are most active students on the campus; they read, and think, and study; they are serious, all of them, serious and alive."

Wellington Tinker, assistant secretary of the University Y. M. C. A., said: "The boys and girls who compose that group represent the best brains on the campus. They get things done; they are bright and active boys and girls to work with; they would serve as examples for any one to follow in class and out of class."

The organization now numbers fifty members. The steady growth of it can best be comprehended by a comparison with other campus organizations. Good government clubs have been started from time to time, having more or less the moral support of the university authorities, but they seldom lived longer than a year. A divinity club, founded simultaneously with the Intercollegiate Socialist Society, has long been defunct. Sporadic religious and political interests now and then evolved into groups or societies, found in the course of a year or two that the ties that bound them were gone.

"But here we have a society," said an enthusiastic member, "which, when not actually frowned upon by the faculty, has even been treated with indifference; and still, in spite of these obstacles, it has grown in its activities so that in the course of the past year it has distributed among the student body \$500 worth of lectures and literature. In this respect this society passes unchallenged as the most active organization of its kind in this country."

As illustration of one phase of its strength, when a straw vote was pulled off by the Michigan Daily, the students' publication, balloting extended over a period of two weeks with little consequence, until it was learned that the Socialists had entered the field by nominating Debs. Then things began to happen. The Roosevelt and Wilson and Taft clubs on the campus began to hustle. The last two days saw tremendous activity. The result was that a larger Socialist vote was polled here than at any other school in the country. The University of Michigan was the first to put up a Socialist ticket, with the result that when news of the returns began to appear in the daily metropolitan papers, other large schools followed suit.

None of them, however, not even Wisconsin University, an alleged Socialist stronghold, showed the number of votes polled here at Michigan.

#### **Osborn's Letter.**

Governor Chase S. Osborn wrote to the Michigan Socialist Society in response to an invitation requesting him to address the club: "I hope the Socialist society will continue to be prosperous and to invoke the interest of all who are inclined toward Socialism. The right way of the future is to be discovered by those who are making earnest search for the truth, and I believe that you are doing that above all other considerations and before you take any thought of practical political profit. The truth is what we should all desire, and if it can come through the work of educated Socialism, it will be none the less welcome."

The activities of these student Socialists are varied. Anything that will further intelligent study and interest in Socialism and allied topics is their business. They organize study groups, meet bi-weekly and discuss. They have reports on new books and current events, interpreting the latter from the viewpoint of Socialism. They bring speakers to Ann Arbor, among whom have been Arthur Brooks Baker, of Esperanto fame; A. W. Ricker, of the Appeal to Reason; Frank Bohn, formerly of Columbia University, now associate editor of the International Socialist Review. The event of the year, however, was the last lecture delivered Jun 6, by Alexander Irvine on "The Message of Victor Hugo to the Twentieth Century." This was by far the largest meeting of the year, over 500 students, faculty and townspeople being present.

#### **Go on Lecture Platform.**

Though primarily given over to the study of Socialism rather than its propaganda, the Intercollegiate Socialist Society has of late branched out into an activity which makes it unique among organizations of its kind. The society soon developed among its members no little talent for lecturing. A very urgent demand from many cities in lower Michigan for



speakers brought to fruition the idea of supplying these cities. Robert Hess, Peter Fagan, Maurice Seegar and Walter Nelson were the speakers on the Intercollegiate lecture course whose services were soon in great demand.

Plans for next year are already under way. Pledges for membership to the extent of 100 have already been secured. This increased membership makes possible a dream of two years' standing. The S. L. A. course, the big lecture course, the official non-Socialist students' lecture course, by reason of its constantly diminishing attendance, caused it is said, by booking each year a poorer and poorer grade of speakers, has become extinct. The Intercollegiate Socialist Society is now in correspondence with many of the country's famous Socialist speakers, and will put on a lecture course for the coming year. Among the speakers that the society has secured are Morris Hillquit, a New York lawyer and writer; Eugene V. Debs, Presidential candidate; Victor Berger, Socialist member of Congress; Charles Edward Russell, magazine writer; Alexander Irvine, Dr. Frank Bohn and Prof. John Kennedy of Chicago University.

Sandwiched in between these speakers, student members of the organization will give talks and debates, and conduct quiz sections. In various groups of ten or twelve, different lines of activity will be taken up, such as a closer study of Marx, a review of the history of Socialism, the interpretation of current events and various other lines. Unique among these will be a class for drill in public speaking.

### **Social Activities Also.**

The social activities are not lost sight of. The dances given from time to time by this society are becoming more and more popular, and are more and more numerous attended. Social evenings indoors in the winter, and all-day outdoor picnics in the early fall and summer are a further part of the social life.

For next year three further lines of activity are planned, a singing club, consisting of a double quartet, plans for which are well under way; a debating team to contest with teams from the various literary societies; a drama study club under the direction of a member of the faculty, which will stage one of the modern plays.

Quarters for the coming year presented to the society a real problem. "We need a hall of our own, and we can get it, too," said G. H. Bishop, secretary of the society; "a real auditorium, with a seating capacity of from four to five hundred with parlors for our smaller meetings and also for purposes of entertainment in a social way, and plans are almost mature for it. This would remove any restrictions that might arise from a relation of tenancy under the roof of the conservatively religious organizations. The society would be unhampered. Its great future purpose in the university is to present to Michigan students serious things to think about.

"Membership in this society does not imply agreements with Socialist principles and doctrines, but merely indicates a willingness to have these principles carefully and seriously investigated, and makes an appeal to the college man and woman to study Socialism earnestly and candidly."

**(Detroit Free Press)**

## SOCIALISM EXPLAINED

By Guy McClung

Socialism is not hard either to explain or understand.

Here is the situation: The world's people belong to or support one of the two great classes, capitalists or workers.

What have we got? Nothing. What have they got? Everything.

Now we want it. Simple, isn't it?

We demand all they've got. Why? Because they have stolen it from us. We are the disinherited of the earth and we are getting ready to take back what belongs to us. We have waked up to the fact that the few have no right to enjoy all the good things of life while the many live in want and die in misery. We have discovered that we are running a race in which they have a hundred yard start; we have entered a contest in which they have the upper hand; we are sitting around a table on which the cards are stacked; we are playing a game for which they have made the rules.

They told us in the beginning that there was a chance for all. Now we know that they lied.

We have become wise to the fact that we are the victims, the suckers, the fallguys, in the greatest bunco game ever invented. We put all we had into it — our health, our hopes, our strength and power to labor — but everything went merely to make them richer and stronger. The result is that they are the owners of everything that makes life worth living.

We want it back. Now how are we going to get it?

Ask them for it? They would hand us the laugh.

Buy it from them? It never belonged to them in the first place — no, we are going to take it.

Take it how? By force? No, not necessarily. By bullets? We are not so foolish. We have the power already. We far outnumber them and our brains, when used, are as good as theirs. Therefore, we will organize our power and use our brains in our own behalf hereafter instead of theirs. When the workers are once solidly united the system by which the capitalists daily rob us of the fruits of our toil will simply fall of its own weight. There will be nothing under it to support it any longer and each man will then own his job and retain for himself the value of his product. — International Socialist Review.

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