

to make far-reaching sacrifices, without security for the future, will certainly oppose it. In the interests of all concerned, Dr. Addison would be well-advised were he to drop the contemplated legislation before it is relegated to the same fate as his much-vaunted Health Bill.—I am, yours, etc.,

J. MENZIES CAMPBELL,  
L.D.S., D.D.S., F.R.S.E.  
14, Buckingham Terrace, Glasgow.  
January 8, 1921.

*Glasgow Herald.*

SIR,—Mr. Horace P. Bastow, Secretary of the National Dental Association, which is the largest society of unqualified men practising dentistry in this country, resents the statement that they are "quacks"—as all unqualified men undoubtedly are—on the plea that the members of his society have to make a declaration that they have been engaged in operations upon the mouth for a period of five years prior to February 6, 1919 which declaration is equivalent to articles of apprenticeship such as exist for dental pupils who are subsequently qualified. This is the usual type of specious argument employed by quacks to gull the public. The uninitiated are intended to infer from this statement that after dental pupils serve an apprenticeship they can claim to be qualified dentists. The truth is they are no more qualified than the members of his society. After a dental pupil serves his apprenticeship at mechanical dentistry he commences his professional studies in medical and dental subjects and passes several examinations before he becomes a Licentiate in Dental Surgery, and this part of his training occupies three years at least. Can a quack medicine claim to be better because it has been foisted on the public for ten years instead of two? The only real claim it can make, so far as one can see, is that it has had the opportunity of accomplishing five times as much mischief, and whether a quack has been practising quackery for five years or one year prior to joining a quack society he still remains a quack, and if this new Dentists Bill is passed and all the members of the National Dental Association succeed in being registered they will still be "registered" dental quacks to the end of the chapter. It would be interesting to know how many concrete cases Mr. Bastow could give of quacks using the title "Dental Surgeon." In all my experience of many years I have never come across a single case.—I am, etc.,

J. KIRKE NASH,  
L.D.S., R.C.S.  
Edinburgh,  
January 14th.

*Glasgow Herald.*

SIR,—I am one of the qualified dentists who believe that much good will come to the dental profession and to the public by the passing of

the Dentists Bill now before Parliament. The great thing in this Bill is prohibition of practice by the unqualified. In other words, after the passing of the Bill any person who wishes to join the dental profession must qualify. I keep asking myself, "Do the present qualified dentists realise this great fact?" From many of the letters that have appeared in your paper one would come to the conclusion that their text is, "What we've got we'll hold." I will admit that the qualified dentist of the present is asked to make a big sacrifice for the qualified of the future, but surely the granting of what is asked is not beyond us. The qualified dentist of the present day has a good chance of raising the dental profession to the level of the medical for the future, and if we do not take the chance we shall be condemned in the future, and justly so, as we have condemned those who have shelved this question in the past.—I am, etc.,

EDWARD TULL-WARNOCK.  
419, St. Vincent Street,  
Glasgow.  
January 14th.

*Glasgow Herald.*

SIR,—Mr. Nash in his letter of Friday questions the value of British Dental Association opinion on legislative proposals. He says if a complete verdict of the Association could be obtained the result would be entirely different. This loose statement seeks to convey the impression that a small majority obtained in a small meeting is being exploited in support of the Government proposals. The actual fact is that the meeting decided it was essential that a "complete verdict of the Association should be obtained," and a referendum was agreed to, the result of which confirmed in every respect the decision arrived at in the meeting. It is on the result of this referendum that the Association policy is based.

It has not been strikingly obvious from your correspondence column that the members of the dental profession within and without the ranks of the Association are really in complete agreement as to the necessity for an amending Act. Differing views vary in direct relation with our knowledge of the political complexities that compass us about. No member of the profession denies the hardship entailed on qualified practitioners in reopening the Dentists Register. That sacrifice is demanded from us, and has been tentatively acquiesced in for the ultimate benefit of the public and with full recognition of its disadvantages to the present members of the profession. Every member would gladly support "Equity's" simple alternative if there existed the remotest possibility of securing it. Our differences are on matters of method and detail. Our objects are identical—viz., improvements in the conditions of chaos which at pre-