

The use of gutta percha was first mentioned by Mr. Sercombe in the second volume of the 'Transactions.' It was much used at first but has been, to a great extent, abandoned; it took long to harden and shrank in the process. The models obtained in this way had the appearance of being very perfect; there was no sucking, no dragging, under cuts were well shown, but these appearances were deceptive; a true portrait of the mouth was not shown,

But if the best kind, viz, the common unprepared block gutta percha of the shops was used, it would prove a useful adjunct in taking impressions, softening more rapidly and completely, remaining soft at a lower temperature, and giving a smoother surface than the pink preparation.

He advocated the use of a special tray for each case struck up in zinc, from moulds obtained in the first instance from an ordinary wax model. The tray should cover only those parts where a plate is to rest. The gutta percha takes ten minutes to harden, and the pressure may be kept up by the patient biting on the tray, a piece of wood being interposed to equalize the pressure; in this way a good model can be obtained.

Stent's composition was a good material; it did not contract or become sucked if left long enough. Of plaster of Paris, the best is to be obtained at Robson's, Mount Pleasant, Gray's Inn Road; should be mixed with water warmed to 80 °, with a little salt; ordinary trays suffice. Should not be used when thin enough to run from the tray, but still it must be soft enough to require slight pressure in taking impression. In the upper, press the plaster first against hard palate, then press upwards and forwards, so as to avoid air being confined and a "blow" resulting. The patient should sit upright and the saliva allowed to flow into a hand spittoon. In the lower the weight of the tray alone is sufficient pressure. A little practice soon enables one to note the best time of removal. By the use of a special tray not covering the external surfaces of the teeth which are not to be worked to, we can avoid too much locking or breaking up of the impression into many parts. He advised leaving the plaster in the mouth about two minutes. After removal from the mouth collect the broken pieces and fit them into their places. In casting such impressions it is best to wash them over with a solution of soft soap. The cast should not be removed entire, but piece-meal with a blunt knife. When a gold plate with clasps is to be made, strike up your plate to the model. Place it in the mouth and