

seeing mouths which, in consequence of having been for a long time without teeth, have undergone changes that make the insertion of satisfactory substitutes very doubtful! That the wearing of plates lessens these changes can scarcely be doubted; but that they generally continue in some degree, even with the use of plates, seems to me equally beyond doubt. There probably are exceptions, but I do not remember ever seeing a plate that had been worn from five to ten years that fitted as tightly as a new plate ought to. If, then, there is no time when the "gums" become unalterable, how long is it necessary to wait to avoid the consequences of rapid change? I have no exact data from which to determine this point definitely, but probably every dentist of experience has observed numerous instances where temporary sets, inserted in from two to four weeks after extraction, were worn year after year,—in some cases, to be sure, after they ceased to be comfortable, but in other cases where they continued quite satisfactory. So often have the people observed this that, where the foolish practice of inserting temporary sets for a mere nominal sum still obtains, patients frequently expect from the first to escape the expense of a permanent set. If a set of teeth, no matter when inserted, is useful a year after extraction and afterward becomes useless, it is evident that the trouble arises in part from changes occurring more than a year after extraction. My general observation has led me to believe that, ordinarily, rapid changes do not continue beyond three or four months after extraction, and consequently that it is sufficient time to wait for the insertion of permanent sets.

Another important question is, How long do permanent sets of artificial teeth on an average last? The question is of practical importance, as having a bearing upon an evil cherished by many in and out of the profession,—namely, that of neglecting or sacrificing natural teeth for artificial. Persons frequently neglect their natural teeth, on the supposition that it will cost them much less to have them removed and artificial ones substituted than to have them preserved. While this supposition may be correct in some cases, still, it is evidently based upon the false consumption that if once an artificial set is secured there will be no further expense while they live. In fact, a lady told me once that a dentist had insured her gold set for her lifetime; and, if I remember rightly, he had made her the second set on gold; and later, rubber came to his relief and was used for a third set, he taking the gold. Webster, says: "Permanent is