

disputed by those who have paid any attention to the subject, that the earlier specimens of vulcanite introduced into this Province, while equal in color and in susceptibility of polish, were much stronger and less liable to wear and lose their polish in the mouth than the varieties now in general use.

The introduction of vulcanite into the dental laboratory while heartily and almost enthusiastically accepted by a great portion of the profession, was met by the earnest protest of nearly all the more prominent and more advanced dentists of Philadelphia, New York and other large American cities. This protest was founded on the fear that the comparatively small amount of skill required to manipulate the rubber would enable empirics and unscrupulous men to reduce the price of artificial dentures as to make very many ignorant persons neglect the preservation of the teeth, have them extracted and replaced by artificial ones, to their own personal and permanent injury and to the great injury of the of the conscientious and high minded dentist, who must ever consider the preservation of the natural teeth the highest aim of his profession. The result has unfortunately justified the fear. Thousands of teeth are each year being extracted, which by skillful treatment might have been preserved. It is a subject on which much difference of opinion may well exist, whether, after all, the benefits to humanity resulting from bringing the price of artificial dentures within the easy reach of all classes of the community, has not been more than overbalanced by the wanton extraction of the natural teeth which has also resulted from the same cause.

In spite however of this opposition, founded on a praiseworthy conservatism and of the still more widely spread opposition which arose owing to the oppressive exactions of the representatives of the Goodyear patent, vulcanite as a base for artificial teeth has become all but universal.

The section of the profession which thus gave the "cold shoulder" if not actual opposition to this innovation in mechanical dentistry comprised probably a very large proportion of the dentists who have the skill, the taste, the knowledge and the means necessary to imitate and carry on to completion such experiments as might result in very materially improving the vulcanite for dental purpose. Not approving, they have declined to attempt improvement, hoping rather, perhaps, that acknowledged defects might eventually drive the material from the laboratory.

On the other hand a very large portion of our profession, in this