

Saving Materials.

By L. D. S., Toronto.

When I was a student I thought my tutor awfully mean, because he made me carefully save every scrap of wax, and things I called rubbish. We had a "rubbish drawer," into which all "useless" articles were put. "They'll be wanted sometime," I was told; and it was wonderful how often the prediction came true. The idea of not wasting plaster which was only two dollars a barrel, and of being so petty about bits of vulcanite, etc., seemed to me the height of narrowness and meanness. I often feel grateful, today, to my tutor, who is dead and gone, for the lessons he taught me in economy. The principle got so bred in me that I believe I save as much rubber, plaster, wax, etc., as most men use.

I think there never was a time when we have such wasteful students as now. My experience of the average Ontario student is, that he is a very nice young man indeed, but that he rarely consults the interest in this way of his tutor. I have seen the most reckless waste of vulcanite in packing, which showed not merely ignorance but pure indifference. The fact is, students in the office are a nuisance. No money compensates a dentist for the abuse of his tools, carelessness with his lathes, etc., and the direct damage to his work by the boys who think because, perhaps, they have paid you a hundred dollars or so, they have a right to be careless, to come and go as they please, and to waste as much of everything as they use.

Aluminum Plates.

By L. D. S., Toronto.

I have given up vulcanite! Anyone who must have a rubber plate will never get it from me. I have done forever with the nasty, clumsy thing—excepting when I use enough of it to attach teeth to metal plates.

For several years I used cast aluminum plates, and, I confess, I had so many failures I returned to vulcanite; but now I am using aluminum exactly as I would use gold, for partial as well as for upper sets, and I have not only satisfaction myself, but I find my patients coming to me and wanting to get their vulcanite sets renewed for this lightest and pleasantest of all metals for the mouth. With care in striking up the plate I can make it yield to every obstruction. I make holes through it, and I secure perfect attachment.