

wired or ligated to the natural teeth and allowed to remain oftentimes for years, or until the loss of the natural ones to which they were attached, before these fabrics were removed from the mouth for even comfort and cleanliness. Partial cases were also made from one piece of bone, with the teeth filed, cut and shaped to suit the case. The case, No. 1, will illustrate the latter method, and was made in Halifax, by Dr. L. E. Van Buskirk, in 1822. The case, No. 2, which I now present for your examination, came into my possession twenty-five years ago, and was made for and worn by a lady of wealth and position in this city, long since deceased. This case was made in London about the year 1820 or 1825, and worn until I replaced them with a full set on gold plate with block teeth. Many methods were resorted to to secure and obtain sound and perfect human teeth to attach to the bone plates. Advertisements were inserted in the daily papers in England, offering to purchase perfect teeth from those who were disposed to sell; and many among the poor and unfortunate found sale for those organs, and when a price was agreed upon between the two parties, the teeth were removed.¹

During the Crimean War, it was said the teeth of some of those slain in battle were removed for the purpose of selling them to dentists for artificial dentures, and when I first commenced to practise in Halifax, in 1860, it was asked by many if natural teeth for artificial sets were used, so general had become the idea that dead people's teeth were the only kind inserted, many objecting and refusing to have sets or partial sets for fear of wearing other people's teeth, as was frequently remarked.

How teeth were removed, or by use of what kind of instruments, we are led to infer that the hawk's bill or turn key, so called, was the instrument then in vogue, as forceps were not in use until the year 1839. This ancient instrument, the turn key, was made with handles at right angles with the shaft, so that both hands could grasp it at once; there were hooks curved and of various sizes, to be attached to the extreme end of the shaft, so as to go over the top of the tooth to be removed, while the bulb of the instrument would be carefully secured and wound with an old handkerchief or a piece of cloth, partly to lessen the pain sure to be produced by using the inside of the jaw and process as a fulcrum when extracting, and particularly to fill the patient's mouth so as to prevent any audible sound during the operation; and if one or even two teeth came forth with a large part of the process, the operator exultingly held it up, exclaiming, "Thank goodness, the jaw is not broken;" while in some cases the operator found, to his sorrow, that the patient had to call in the services of a surgeon to repair damages.

It was my fate in 1843 to have a molar removed with the turn key, my head between an assistant's knees, who stood behind my