

solid as flint, and I have yet to meet the first failure on any such account as that friability characteristic of our teeth. I should like to see you cut one of these teeth in two with a pair of scissors, as you can cut clean our gum blocks! You might as well try to take a bite out of a bit of steel.

A Batch of Hints.

By R. D.

You invite hints in brevity as well as more studied articles; and I believe there is not a dentist living but could send you an original batch several times a year.

Taking a Bite.—Trim your wax, if for upper or lower set, to the contour and length. I once thought that sufficient, but now I get accuracy itself by taking two teeth, if plain teeth, or a couple of the blocks, if gum teeth, cutting away the wax exactly as it has finally to be cut away, to let in the teeth, and then simply set these samplers to the exact length and prominence they are to remain.

Lining Teeth.—In lining bicuspid and molars for gold plates, use heavier backing than for front teeth, as these teeth stand a greater strain. Also add a bit of plate—thus doubling the lining at the bottom next to the plate.

Before you extract for a set, take an impression of the natural teeth, and have it on your laboratory beside the substitute.

Arsenic.—Before applying for the destruction of a pulp, anaesthetize the head of the latter by holding in contact a pellet of cotton, dipped in hot, carbolic acid. Most of dentists use too much arsenic. If the decomposed dentine is properly removed, and the pulp fully exposed, a small pin's head size of arsenic is sufficient.

Facial Fistula.—When a fistula has opened on the outside of the face, on account of poulticing or from any other cause, do not extract the offending tooth until you make an artificial fistula inside the mouth. The outside fistula will heal by granulation. If you extract the tooth before doing so, the tissue certainly will be greatly depressed, and an uglier scar result.

Over-Medication.—In treating alveolar abscesses, we may have too much of a good thing. Many a case of gonorrhœa would get better if syringing was not so often persisted in. It is the same with pumping carbolic acid, peroxide of hydrogen, bichloride of mercury, etc., into alveolar abscesses. Periods of rest ought to be allowed, or only warm water substituted.