

itself. The short circuit may occur either in the cells through the scaling or peeling of the active material, the pieces which become detached lodging between the positive and negative plates, or in the apparatus operated from the battery.

As soon as it is noticed that the battery will not hold its charge it should be immediately examined for short circuits. The best way to do this is to probe between the plates with a thin piece of hard rubber, thus removing any material which may have formed a connection between the plates. If this will not stop the trouble and the electrolyte is covering the plates entirely, in most of the cases the short circuit will be found in the apparatus. One or two charges and discharges will soon bring the cells back to their original condition.

To sum up what has been said before, all there is needed to keep a storage battery in good condition, is a proper installation, a judicious charging with due consideration for the amount of the current taken out, and a careful maintenance of the cells.

The storage battery of to-day is a practical and mechanical piece of apparatus. Engineers have come to the assistance of the chemist, the result being a well-designed and constructed apparatus, free from the weak points which were inherent in all early types of cells and which necessitated the constant attention of a skilled doctor or nurse.—*Dental Review*.

SOME THOUGHTS ON ORTHODONTIA.—AN ANSWER.

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To corrupt a line attributed to the "Bard of Avon" "That man that hath no opinion, I say is no man." A rational, conservative view on any topic, whether it be a deduction of his own mind or a reflection from another's, is always welcome, and must always invite a certain amount of respect; because he at once becomes sponsor for this opinion, and must expect to meet all would-be challengers.

As a challenger, then, exception is herewith taken to a few of the points brought out in "Some Thoughts on Orthodontia," December *Items of Interest*.

The article suggests to me a boundless faith in one particular authority; at least its influence is apparent in his methods of procedure.

On page 882 he says, "I feel constrained to believe that most of it (irregularity) is purely hereditary." The Egyptians and Jews are then quoted as examples whose "racial characteristics have remained almost unchanged through ages."

The mechanical influence is quite ignored.