

The Committee on Mechanical Dentistry reported, through its chairman, Dr. B. T. Spellman, of Warren, Ohio. He noticed, in order, the several materials in use as bases for artificial teeth. As to Colburn's material, the report agreed with the manufacturer that it would answer for temporary use, not to exceed a few months. Newbrough's rubber being prepared by a new process, the committee are unable to report whether it will stand the fluids of the mouth or not. It possesses the same properties as dried vegetable ivory, and that soon softens in the mouth. The wicked raid made by the rubber company had induced some good men to be too sanguine of it. The Simpson rubber had disappointed the profession. Dr. McClelland was invited to come before the committee and explain his process, but he neither came nor replied. Of the merits of this material they know nothing, but are glad to report that there is much talent and industry devoted to the discovery of something which will take the place of rubber. The porcelain base is recommended as growing in favour and unsurpassed for cleanliness; the contour of the face is as well restored by it as by the platina and continuous gum work. There is no trouble in making an upper or under set; it can be ground to fit the plaster cast in about the same time needed to get up a set of rubber blocks; the marks of the stone to be obliterated by a coating of gum enamel fused on afterward.

Artificial palates have been simplified to such an extent as almost to render staphyloraphy obsolete.

The committee reported no improvement in the status of mechanical dentistry, the advent of rubber having driven the best men from the laboratory in disgust. They recommended only gold for partial cases, and Dr. J. Allen's continuous gum as the ideal fully attained in supplying lost teeth and restoring the contour of the face.

Dr. C. R. Butler, from the Committee on Dental Therapeutics, reported that he had seen the best results, in treating sensitive dentine, follow the use of carbolic acid and the acetate of morphia; he did not consider it safe, however, under all circumstances. He had found tincture of aconite root to work favourably in cases of facial neuralgia or peridontitis. Chloride of zinc, in varied dilutions, is a valued remedy in the treatment of many oral diseases. He did not perceive the advantage of phosphate of lime to remedy defective dental tissues; he believed there is not a lack of material but of assimilative power in the organism.

A special Committee on Instruments and Appliances, consisting of Dr. Shepard, of Boston; Bogue, of New York; and Smith, of Cincinnati, reported improvements in dental chairs, by Drs. J. B. Morrison, O. C. White, I. A. Salmon, and W. M. Butler; a pneumatic mallet, by B.