

ducing intense, sharp, cutting pain, especially as it passed through the pharynx, and also the œsophagus, until carried beyond the diaphragm into the cardiac portion of the stomach. An instrument was introduced, and an effort made to remove it by means of ligatures attached to a hollow tube, but failed in its purpose; in fact it was a question if her physician was certain whether he felt the plate or not, in introducing into the stomach the instrument for its removal. The patient was sent to the hospital, where she remained several weeks. During that time she suffered considerable pain and sore throat, could not lie on either side, much swelling preventing her securing her clothes around her, pain most severe in the left side of the hypochondriac region, lived mostly upon fluids, and very irregular in her bowels. The above symptoms of inflammation and soreness gradually passed away, and in a few weeks she was enabled to return to her usual occupation as a governess in a family. During an interview with her a few days since, she gave me the above particulars, and enabled me also to judge of the size of the plate she had swallowed, and also ascertain the number of teeth, &c., on it. She seems of the opinion that the denture has *dissolved* in the stomach, and is *convinced* it has not passed the bowels. Being of a feeble anæmic constitution, she remarked that since the accident, for the past month at least, she *never enjoyed better health*, appetite good, digestion improved, regular in her bowels, and in good spirits. Thinking it impossible for the gastric juices of the stomach to act upon the vulcanite, I felt desirous to know what mineral acids would dissolve vulcanite rubber, hence I experimented with the various muriatic, sulphuric and nitric acids, found the two former had no effect upon the piece placed in it, but by applying nitric acid and chloroform, after twenty-four hours the piece had become quite like a sponge in softness, could easily express the coloring material from it, and in drying, it could be rubbed up like powder between the fingers. Now comes a nice question for physiologists, namely: Will the gastric juices of the stomach act upon vulcanite rubber in the same way as upon bone or horn, or will the result be in time, the same as may be produced by acids when experimented upon out of the stomach? Muriatic acid, hydro chloric, &c., being said to be found in the stomach, can they act upon vulcanite as above suggested? May not the fact of the patient being better in general health be owing to the presence of this foreign body in the stomach? The veddahs or wild hunters of Ceylon, as related by Dr. Carpenter, mingle pounded fibres of soft and decayed wood with the honey in which they feed, when meat is not to be had. They know not the reason for so doing, but remarked that they knew that the belly must be filled.