

been, any persistent local symptom which would indicate with any degree of certainty its true position.

The efforts made to detect it in the stomach having proved abortive, the idea of snaring or hooking the plate by appliances which had suggested themselves to the surgeons of the hospital, could not be carried out,—hence she still wears the teeth, but in a locality where I fear they will rather retard than assist the process of digestion.

Within the past year a case almost identical with that now under discussion, was recorded in the London *Lancet*, if I mistake not, in which a hospital surgeon, not only discovered the site of the plate, but successfully extracted it by means of an instrument used for the purpose of removing coin or other foreign bodies from the œsophagus. To have hooked or seized such a body, in a large, distant, and dark cavity like the stomach, and to have caused it to enter the œsophagus in its long axis, precisely as desired, was, to say the least, a most happy result, and one that might not be attained again, even by the same operator, in 90 cases out of a 100.

In this connexion I may remark, that a practical difficulty may meet the surgeon seeking to remove such a foreign body as a plate, with teeth attached to it, from the stomach.

He might be able to seize it firmly, and yet fail to get it to enter the œsophagus; and still have further and greater difficulty in detaching the instrument from its hold of the plate or teeth, without doing serious violence to the stomach; and this difficulty might very readily occur where snares of wire or twine are used for such a purpose. Hence the necessity of being guarded in selecting the surgical appliance for such an operation.

The question arises—What will become of this foreign body if it is not passed “per vias naturales?” And a second enquiry very naturally follows the first—What will become of the patient if it remains in the alimentary canal? If I am correctly informed, the material of which it is composed is not likely to be dissolved by the action of gastric juice, or by any of the secretions it may come in contact with, should it pass the pylorus. Dr. Cogswell in the article already referred to, says:—

“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 24 hours the piece had become quite like a sponge in softness, could easily express the colouring material from it, and in drying it could be rubbed up like powder between the fingers.”