

ALUMINUM AS A BASE FOR ARTIFICIAL DENTURES.

By G. V. N. RELYEA, L.D.S., Belleville.

Having frequent communications from dentists in relation to the aluminum work, (as to my opinion and *modus operandi*), and having had some considerable experience in that line, I purpose in a very brief way to give my system of mounting, and my reasons why I consider aluminum preferable to rubber, gold, or even continuous gum work. It must not be supposed, however, that I have any thing new to introduce; on the contrary it is the old system of swedging and then attaching the teeth with vulcanite. The clasps can be attached in the same way. I may say, however, that I never perforate, but simply serrate, as it does not weaken the plate, and the rubber does not show on the under side.

Aluminum is better than rubber because it is stronger and can be made as thin as gold. It is preferable to gold, for the following reasons: First, there is less labor in putting up a set; second, there is no danger of the plate warping, which it will do more or less in all cases when all gold is used; third, it can more readily be kept clean; fourth, it is smoother to the tongue. Continuous gum work is unquestionably the most beautiful style of artificial denture, ever made, but it is unavoidably heavy; there is the same danger of warping as in gold work, it is more readily broken should it drop and infinitely more trouble in repairing.

Whatever merit rose pearl, or more properly Pyroxyline, may possess it is in its present state too tedious, complicated and uncertain for general use. Finally, there is unquestionably nothing hitherto used that will give a better fit than the odious rubber, but in this particular feature combined with its exceeding cheapness centres its whole merit. I do not use aluminum exclusively, nor to any very great extent, but where strength is required I find it the best and most reliable adjunct that has yet come into my way.

FINGER PROTECTOR FOR USE IN ANÆSTHETICS.

By J. LAUDER, Dental Student.



This little contrivance suggested itself to me, as a useful finger protector and assistant during the administration of anæsthetics, when there is so much muscular resistance of the lower maxillary that great difficulty is found in depressing it to make room for the forceps.

The ring is made of silver, to fit the forefinger of the left hand, half an inch in length from the tip of the finger; a lip is added to prevent slipping. It may be used by the operator or assistant. It affords great