

Question Drawer.

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Q.—35. In cases of bridge work, where the bite is close and the dummy broad for occlusion, the gum becomes congested, filling up the place left for cleansing. This is particularly noticeable where a dummy is placed between two natural teeth. Can this be prevented? or is there any advantage in leaving a cleansing space where such is likely to occur?

A.—1. I should certainly leave a cleansing space. It need not be large, but sufficient to allow the mouth wash to reach every part in rinsing the mouth. Turgescence of the gum is less likely to follow if such precaution is taken. Such a dummy should if possible be carried by two strong piers to prevent any pressure upon the gum in mastication. I would also curtail the surface for occlusion.

A. A. SMITH, Cornwall.

2. Yes—By keeping the dummy away from the gum, or the tip of the porcelain may touch without exerting pressure enough to prevent the free passage of air or fluids.

J. E. OVERHOLT, Hamilton.

3. Yes—There seems to be a tendency for the gums to grow over the facings, but space should be left and astringent mouth washes used.

J. G. ROBERTS, Brampton.

4. Make the gold crown to fit very close over the natural tooth, burnishing the edges under the gums, making the cusps (if a bicuspid or molar) broad and in such a way that the food will not wedge between the teeth.

W. B.

5. In bridge work, where the bite is close the dummy should never be wide, as it would surely interfere with cleanliness. Better not insert a bridge than cause any insanitary or abnormal conditions of the surroundings.

The only obvious method for the no space theory would be a removable bridge. If the object of the bridge be simply mastication a prism shaped gold bar would take up much less space than if dummies were attached, and will serve admirably for occlusion in cases of short bite.

OBSERVATION.