

patent spring plate,—the idea of retaining them in position by pressure upon the natural teeth in the manner described, or the application of rubber to that particular form of plate? If the former, it is no novelty. He had seen gold and silver plates made upon precisely the same principle, pressing upon from one to four teeth on each side, ten or twelve years ago. The idea was an old one then. He had seen rubber plates retained in the mouth by the same means. They answered very well for a short time, but the teeth would spread. Nearly, if not all, the spring plates he had made, sooner or later came back, either to be replaced by new, or to have bands extended around the teeth. Some few lasted three or four years. He could see no difference between them and the usual form of regulating plate made for the purpose of expanding the arch. To be retained in place, there must be pressure upon the teeth, and this pressure will move them—a fact admitted by the gentleman *claiming* to be the inventor. He tells us in a recent article upon the subject, that, “if the plate bears too hard upon one tooth, it will move out so as to equalize the pressure on all the teeth,” and then goes on to say something about widening the arch a little, treating it as a small matter. What is to stop this motion from continuing as long as the pressure exists? It is true, it is not so rapid when acting on three or four as on one. These teeth being constantly held out of place, a deposit of bone around their fangs will render the deformity permanent, especially in young patients. He did not think the interlocking of the cusps during mastication could be depended upon to prevent this; at least it had not done so when they were formerly in use. He believed the adaptation of artificial teeth, especially partial sets, required the constant exercise of judgment; had, within the last week, met with a case on gold, nearly a full upper, which had given perfect satisfaction fifteen years, and to all appearances was likely to continue useful fifteen more, which was held up, or at least depended for support, upon a clasp of heavy half-round wire thrown around a wisdom tooth, and made to touch on only two opposite points; every time the patient closed the mouth, the plate was pressed up and oscillated upon these two points. In this case the motion was unavoidable; the dentist who made it showed his judgment in making provision for it. The only visible injury was a slight depression where the band pressed. He had no doubt if the band had been made to fit, as the books tell us they always should, *accurately*, and an effort had been made to prevent this motion, the tooth would have gone long ago.