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ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

EDITORIAL NOTES ON PRACTICAL SUBJECTS.

VULCANITE COMBINATIONS.

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The exclusive use of either red, black or pink rubber, as a base for artificial teeth, have their separate objections. Certain objections to the red may be removed by the use of the brown or black, but the color of these is a strong argument against their use with many patients. The pink compounds would seem to fill the void; but all the light shades of vulcanite are inferior in strength and durability to the red or black, having a much smaller percentage of caoutchouc, and a larger amount of earthy matters or metallic oxides, used to tone down the original color. In 100 parts of the best English pink there is a percentage of 60 parts of fixed matter, while in the best red and black there is, in 100 parts, only from 3 to 6 of this objectionable foreign matter. The consequence is, that the worst colors are the best for all purposes. The following is the method I use for obviating the separate objections referred to, while combining any separate excellence they possess.

Put a sheet of red or black rubber in boiling hot water, and when softened, pass it through rolling mills, until it is reduced to half its usual thickness. It is better to cut the sheet in two longitudinal strips previous to rolling, as the rolling widens the sheets, and it is liable to catch and tear at the sides. If, for instance, the case is an upper set, make a paper pattern of the palatine surface of the model,