

ing. Objection being raised to this method because of the patent, he confessed his inability to understand why a professional man, simply because he is such, should be debarred from protecting an invention by legally obtaining a patent, while the mechanic is applauded for such a course.

He considered mechanical dentistry, so called, by far the most perplexing department of dentistry, requiring for its intelligent practice an extended range of experience and information. He hailed with open arms any discovery or invention, patent or otherwise, that would assist in securing more certain and satisfactory results than have yet been reached in this branch.

Prof. McQuillen said that his experience with regard to mechanical dentistry had been so limited of late years that it might appear almost presumptuous for him to express an opinion on the subject, but he could not refrain from stating that he had known of several instances in which one or two teeth, attached to suction plates, had been worn with comfort and advantage for years by patients who had come under his care. He recalled in particular two sisters, one of whom lost a central, the other a central and a lateral incisor, which were replaced by artificial teeth, so perfectly adapted, and secured by atmospheric pressure, in each instance, that only a very critical eye could distinguish them from the natural organs. The adhesion of the plates to the roof of the mouth was such as to demand some force to dislodge them. While making this statement, he fully recognized that cases are frequently presented to the practitioner in which suction plates could not succeed (owing, however, more to mental than physical difficulties) and in which bands would be absolutely indispensable. The maladaptation of bands was calculated to abrade the teeth, cause decay, and loosen them, but when properly adjusted, for patients who are careful to use the tooth-brush, these injurious results do not supervene, even when such plates have been worn for many years.

Dr. Moffit had received a circular from the "Spring Plate Company," and he had examined some of the work; but did not see how it could be used without eventually spreading the arch of the teeth, in which case it could not be retained. The action of this style of plate would be the same as some of the appliances for treating irregularity where the arch is contracted. He thought there would be more mechanical than chemical action causing the abrasion of teeth where clasps are used, owing to the constant motion of the plate.

Dr. W. H. Trueman inquired what was claimed as original in the