

Dr. W. H. Trueman was opposed to the use of caps upon the molars to keep the jaws apart, especially small metallic caps covering one or two teeth. They bring the entire force of biting upon a few teeth, at a point where the pressure is most severe, and are very liable to cause troublesome inflammation, if not permanent injury. There is also danger of the patient swallowing them: the last one he made met this accident. It was of gold, fitting the first molar quite tightly. The patient, a young miss, while sitting reading, was startled by a member of the family abruptly entering the room, and swallowed it. It immediately passed into the stomach without causing any trouble; but she was under medical treatment several months before recovering from the mental shock of the accident and the effect of the powerful purgatives used to urge its passage.

Regular inclined planes answer the purpose much better; the force is distributed over the jaw, and the planes not only facilitate movement of the teeth, but also prevent the patients exerting the force they otherwise might. He had used a large number of them, and found they answered the purpose nicely, especially in those cases where we are not able see the patient as often as we would like,—for instance, children attending school.

He thought the great fault and the chief cause of their failure was in *not making them large enough*. He always preferred to carry them back so as to rest upon the molars of each side; this not only distributes the pressure, but makes the plates fit more firmly, and enables us to dispense with ligatures to hold them in position. The patients can readily remove and cleanse them. In case the patient will not bite upon them, or the teeth move too slowly, he assists them with rubber bands. He thought it very difficult to do anything without the co-operation of the wearer. It is hard enough to regulate the teeth without having at the same time to regulate the patient and perhaps the parent.

When the teeth were at all crowded, he did not hesitate to extract; would rather have too much room than too little; did not believe in forcing the teeth in position with the expectation of the jaws expanding to give them room. If the patient is young enough for any appreciable stimulation of the natural growth, there is danger of the maxillæ being forced apart at the symphysis, especially the upper, which in early life is not perfectly united. Accidents of this kind have occurred. If old enough to escape this danger, the formative process is so far completed as to prevent any great expansion.