

*Vulcanite Plate with three Artificial Teeth*, swallowed and retained in the stomach or bowels. Read before the Halifax County Medical Society, June 6th, 1871. By Honble. D. McNeill Parker, M.D., Edin., L.R.C.S.E., Member of the Legislative Council of Nova Scotia, Halifax, N. S.

Mrs. H., a lady's maid, aged 25 years, a pale, thin, and small woman, of delicate constitution, had worn for some length of time, a vulcanized plate containing originally five artificial teeth, which had been manufactured and fitted by a Dentist, in Liverpool, England.

It occupied the front portion of the upper jaw and held teeth, to represent the two incisors and canine of the right superior maxilla, and the second incisor, and first bicuspid of the left bone; both the latter being absent at the date of the accident. The platinum pins (four in number) which had connected the two lost teeth to the plate, projected from its surface.

Absorption of the alveolar process, and an altered condition of the gum had caused the plate which at first fitted well, to become loose, and hence difficult to be kept in position. On rising from bed on the morning of March 3rd, 1870, she sneezed violently, and this was immediately followed by a deep inspiration. The former act displaced the plate from its position, and the latter, (the deep inspiration) drew it instantly into the pharynx, where it was fixed for some little time, beyond the reach of the finger. The contractile action of the pharynx and œsophagus, by degrees forced it downwards, so that on her arrival at my office a few hours after the accident, she felt it near the lower part of the sternum; and before I could use an instrument, she was aware that it had escaped from the œsophagus to the stomach.

I immediately passed a probang, but failed to discover it. She had suffered much from pain and difficult respiration during its descent. The pain continuing in the cardiac extremity of the stomach, an opiate was administered, rest was enjoined, and she was admitted shortly after to the Provincial and City Hospital for treatment. Efforts were there made to discover its locality, but without success. She was put on a diet of farinaceous food, with milk and prunes *ad libitum*. The latter (the prunes) were given with the idea that their outer and less soluble parts would be likely to become entangled in, and firmly connected with the plate and teeth, so as to round off the sharp points, and thus lessen the risk of injury to the canal. She was soon dismissed by the surgeon in charge, relieved from suffering, but with the foreign body still in the stomach, or some other part of the alimentary canal.

Since then she has from time to time, suffered from general