

will be so loose that it can be extracted with the fingers. This is given upon the authority of Dr. W. H. Eames, and is certainly worth trying.

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### Dry Steam Vulcanizers.

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Dr. Steele, in the *Items*, suggests a simple plan for converting an ordinary vulcanizer into a dry steam vulcanizer. From heavy sheet zinc he makes a basin-shaped dish about the depth of the flask and about one-fourth of an inch smaller in diameter than the inside of the boiler. This he perforates with holes for the escape of steam and places bottom side up in the boiler with a very little water. By placing the flask on top of the dish, he claims as good results can be obtained as from the use of many of the high priced vulcanizers.

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### A New Anæsthetic.

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The *Ohio Journal of Dental Science* contains the following description of a new anæsthetic: "It is produced in Germany, its inventor being Prof. von Mering, Director of the Medical Polyclinic in Halle, who chose the name "Pental," owing to the circumstance that it contains five carbon atoms. It is very volatile and easily combustible. It can, it is said, be administered exactly like chloroform, and the quantity required each time need cost no more than 6d. Anæsthesia sets in after three or four minutes, rarely later. It is not deep but suffices to render small operations such as the extraction of teeth painless. It is neither accompanied nor followed by any unpleasant effects.

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### Reading Journals.

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"We should not condemn journals because some of the articles are of little value. Much of the thought presented in journals is simply placed on trial, and that which my judgment or the individual judgment of the editor might condemn may prove to be valuable. Many of the better things in literature have been condemned at first reading by learned critics, and have afterwards been recognized by the world as models of thought and expression. Neither should we drop the reading of a journal because a number or two fails to interest us. The next number may contain a single article that will be worth a dozen years' subscription, besides compensation for much uninteresting reading. Anyone who fails to read the journals will be behind, not only in his thought, but also in his practice."—*Dr. Black in Dental Review.*