

After the lower ones are set, remove the disc, turn back the upper model, and articulate the teeth to the lower ones; when I say articulate to the lower teeth, I mean just what I say, and not merely touching them on the outside or buccal cusps; be sure of the articulation on the palatal side.

It is sometimes difficult to secure teeth that will conform to this method without some grinding—not of the cusps, if avoidable—to shorten them so as to go under the arch. It is also difficult to use gum teeth as now made. I am sometimes obliged to turn a bicuspid or molar round wrong side out to make it conform to my idea. Sometimes, when articulating to natural under teeth, I crowd a tooth in nearly out of sight, at other times turn nearly or quite a quarter round. The over-bite of the superior incisors should not be enough to interfere with the perfectly free lateral and forward and back motion of the lower maxillary.

When the plates are completed, the lower set is touched up on the convex side of a corundum wheel, which is made on the same arc as the disc, and the upper on the concave side; this is to grind off any particular cusp that might interfere with the free motion of the jaws, as the slightest obstacle may tend to destroy the easy sliding movement necessary to the perfect working of the teeth.

The wearer of plates carefully made, following these methods, has, I believe, as nearly a perfect denture as it is possible to make; they do not have to pound up their food, but can masticate or chew it as well as is possible with other than the natural organs. I have had the very best of success with my cases since adopting these methods.

I will call particular attention to two or three things: First, the usual method of articulating an upper set to the natural lower teeth; as a general thing the masticating surface of the lower teeth turn into the mouth perhaps more and more as time goes on, and when we set up teeth to articulate with such, there is a tendency on the part of many to articulate simply to the buccal cusps—more especially in using gum or block teeth. This will undoubtedly make a set that looks well out of the mouth, but it is like eating with pegs to use such a plate. It should be our aim in all our work to give our patients the best we can. With teeth articulated like some I have brought with me, how much better the act of mastication can be carried on than if the teeth touched but on buccal cusps! Secondly, articulate the teeth in such a manner that when the lower jaw is carried forward, the pressure or bearing is on some of the back teeth rather than on the incisors, also the same while using the lateral movements.