

particular value. I think that the Doctor has overreached himself a little, and also the gentleman who has discussed the paper, in stating that the operation has been proven a success. It should be received with some degree of consideration. While the experiment perhaps is worth trying, it is doubtful whether it will prove of permanent value. It is true, as he states, that the metals gold and silver are used in surgical operations successfully. This operation is still an experiment. While it may be taken up and further developed, the statement made is a little premature. There is no question but that Dr. Payne has opened a new field, perhaps, in dental surgery. He is an experimenter, and a bright man. I hope that the work he has taken up will prove a success, and that numbers will be led to try the experiment. It certainly can do no harm, and possibly it will lead to something of value.

Dr. C. B. Root—Mr. President, when we come to consider how easily bone yields to pressure, how easily it is absorbed, as shown in the case of tumors and in the case of aneurism, I am afraid we will have to question very severely the success of this operation, if the teeth are subjected to any considerable pressure.

Dr. W. F. Lewis—Mr. Chairman, I would like to say just one thing that has occurred to me in listening to the paper. The claim is made that gold and silver are imbedded in other portions of the human anatomy and allowed to remain permanently, which I think is true; but this point contains an objection: there is nothing attached; it does not hold anything in particular; there is no strain upon an implantation of gold, or on a suture of silver, or a tube or for whatever purpose it may be used. In this case you will have a strain. This implanted capsule must bear the weight of the attachment. That just occurred to me in listening to the reading of the paper. To my mind it is going to be one of the most serious objections, and, I think, would militate against success.

Dr. L. A. Teague—Mr. Chairman, in the last few words he mentions a very important factor in the operation. It is simply a dovetailing of the capsule in the alveolar process, in order to retain it there. As long as nature retains this, and it does not irritate the surrounding tissues, and it can be kept there in the dovetailed way, that seems to me to be a practical idea that appeals to our common sense. But as far as implantations generally go, I have not given it much credit; I have deprecated the idea of implantation from the start, from the very fact that it is altogether too heroic an operation for the minimum of success that accompanies it. I have failed yet to see a tooth that has been implanted that would justify the operation. I have seen one or two that have been pretty good. I do not consider three years or six years of sufficient importance to warrant an operation so heroic as implantation. At the same time this operation described by Dr. Payne,