

quent and expensive), and you will perhaps understand the insular character of the times.

In each large city, and there were but five or six at that time, a luminous point was beginning to send out rays. Three dental colleges had a feeble existence, with no instructor in two of them in operative or mechanical branches. Later, one was appointed in 1854, another in 1857.

Two quarterlies were struggling for life, the *Dental News Letter*, begun in 1848 (now the *Cosmos*), was making its way as the agent and mouth-piece of that organized dental supply house, Jones, White & McCurdy (now the S. S. White Manufacturing Company), then only six years old, and their New York branch but four years going. Ether and chloroform were being talked about, the former being the first used, only in 1847, and I find that it was upon an old friend of mine that the first recorded experiment was made. In 1848 or '49 I had a permanent lower molar extracted while under the ethereal influence. The "amalgam war" had died out, killing one Society, but doing some good in improving the "compound" and manner of use. To give you an idea of how that matter was received in 1845, I refer you to Chapin A. Harris, pp. 259, 2nd edition: About 1850, and prior to, most dentists had their own furnace for making 'incorruptible' teeth, resembling a 'split bean' more than anything else. S. Stockton, of New Jersey, had begun to supply in a small way teeth and gold stock. John Allen and Hunter were in arms, giving and taking hard knocks in defence of priority in continuous gum or platina work.

The *News Letter*, of that time, being their mouth-piece, and doubtless doing more to spread intelligence of this forward step in porcelain combination than any peaceable way could, sides were taken, and from the heat of the contest much light was rapidly given off.

Gum teeth were beginning to appear upon the market, in un fading color, "rose pink" and "purple of cassius" giving way to the preparations of gold now in use. Well do I remember the fear and trembling with which we heated up and soldered a piece, not knowing whether the gum would disappear and leave a smoky brown in its place.

It was marvellous the strides made in those six or eight years, prior to 1852, in the growth of artificial teeth manufacture—from