

IN the Transactions of the Odontological Society of Great Britain appears Mr. J. F. Colyer's discussion of "The Early Treatment of Crowded Mouths." Mr. Colyer lays down as a starting point his opinion that the earlier the treatment of a crowded mouth is commenced the better, for as time progresses the irregularity becomes more fixed and aggravated, and hence more difficult to treat. If room is made for each tooth as it erupts, the case simply resolves itself into the treatment of a crowded cuspid or second bicuspid, whichever tooth happens to erupt last, instead of long and tedious regulation of the six anterior teeth. As to the advisability of treating irregularity by *expansion* or by *extraction*, Mr. Colyer argues in favor of extracting. By expansion of the arch, the liability to caries is increased on account of increased pressure; plates must be worn for a considerable time, this likewise tending to the production of caries. Mr. Colyer points out as an additional argument that the room gained in expansion is apparent and not real, as a tooth moved by mechanical means moves on its apex as a pendulum swings, so that when a number of teeth are moved in this way, the crowns only are forced outward, leaving the roots in their old position; the almost inevitable result being that the teeth relapse on pressure being removed. Where extraction is relied upon for the correction of irregularities (1) Room is gained not only for the crowns, but for the roots of the teeth; (2) The amount of mechanical treatment is lessened, and in many cases abolished; (3) The pressure on the teeth is relieved and a certain amount of isolation obtained, a condition conducive to the prevention of caries; (4) The bite is less disarranged than with expansion; (5) The teeth invariably assume a better direction. The essayist then for purposes of description divides cases into two classes. 1. Cases where the first permanent molars are unsaveable. 2. Cases where the first permanent molars are saveable. In cases of the first class the first permanent molars are kept by some means until the eruption of the second permanent molars. The crowding of the upper and lower incisors is then relieved by the removal of the temporary cuspids. When the bicuspids have erupted, the case of regulating simply resolves itself into finding a place for the permanent cuspid, which is erupting high in the arch. The first permanent molars having been extracted, a plate is placed in the mouth to retain the second permanent molars in position until the cuspid forces the bicuspids back, assisted by the bite. In the second class, *i.e.*, those where the first permanent molars are saveable, Mr. Colyer advises making space by extracting first the deciduous first molar and then the underlying first permanent bicuspid.

**RUBBER DAM.**—The unpleasant smell that is noticeable is easily removed, by soaking the rubber in cold water for two or three hours.—*Ash's Quarterly Circular.*