

not an uncommon thing for a person to wear a plate for five or ten years, and then if a tooth happens to come off, demand that it be put on free of charge. A case in point: a woman came into my office, with a long visage handed me her plate, with the remark, "I have broken my plate; yes, it broke while I was eating mashed potatoes, and I am so very careful not to eat anything hard; oh! I am very careful." "Well," I said, "I am sorry; I never like to see a broken plate come into the office. How long have you had it?" "Why," said she, "you made it; don't you remember, seventeen years ago?" "And have you never broken it before?" "No." "Well, madam, it has not cost you much." "No, but I don't think you ought to charge me for mending them." "Why?" I asked. "Because you made my sister a set three years before I got mine and she hasn't broken her's yet!" There are others, with mouths so unfavorable, that it is almost impossible for any dentist to adapt a set of teeth to them, although he may try again and again to do it, who very generously offer not to trouble him any more if he will kindly refund them their money.

It is fearful to contemplate the number of living teeth that are ruined everywhere by the reckless use and abuse of the zinc plastics. I wonder if dentists ever stop to consider what they are using, and what may be the result of plastering up a sensitive tooth with zinc without proper care. Oxide of zinc contains a large percentage of arsenite of zinc, and this is insoluble in solution chloride of zinc. Arsenic also abounds in hydrochloric acid in the form of chloride of arsenic. Now if we cap a pulp, or one nearly exposed, without careful protection, what is going to be the result? There will very likely be a funeral, and you may just as well put it down in your notebook. Sleeping nicely now, but will die sure. Zinc also contains iron, copper, lead, tin, arsenic and carbon, etc. How many of us know or care to know what we are using? Oxyphosphate and oxychloride of zinc are undoubtedly two of the most useful articles, when properly used, that we possess; but, when carelessly used, they are capable of doing terrible damage to living teeth.

A little spirits of camphor, dropped into a wine glass of water, will sometimes prevent nausea while taking impressions; let the patient rinse out the mouth just previous to inserting the cup.

Don Quixote said to Sancho, "you must know that a mouth without grinders is like a mill without stones, and a diamond is not so precious as a tooth."