

As a lady had recently died in our town from cancer of the superior maxillary she was, of course, much alarmed. Now the most obvious and simple thing to do was to discontinue the wearing of the plate and apply a treatment for the restoration of the part to normal condition. You all know how a suggestion of this kind to a lady of the average social duties—to go without her teeth for an indefinite period—would be received. On a hint of this kind, for I had begun to entertain fears that there may be such a thing as poisoning from the plate, the lady decided to go home and think it over. This gave me a chance to think it over, and I decided on a course which looked to the curing of the trouble while she was still wearing the plate, and which would determine whether the abnormal conditions were produced by poisoning from the coloring matter, vermilion, which is, as you know, sulphuret of mercury, or from the non-conducting properties of the rubber, or from other causes. By request the lady reported at my office the next day. On close examination it seemed impossible to tell whether the plate had settled into the membrane or the membrane had swollen around the plate; but I concluded that the absorption of the alveoli had let the plate down so that the part had become surrounded by a ring of pressure on the labial, buccal, and palatal edges in such a way as to greatly impede the circulation of the blood.

As my object was to effect a cure while the patient wore the plate, I began to cut the plate away on these edges a very little each day, being careful not to go so far as to render it impossible for the lady to wear it. This cutting was continued for a few days and the mouth began rapidly to return to its natural color. In two weeks all signs of inflammation were gone, and I asked the lady, whom of course I advised to have a new set of teeth, what she wanted them made on. She replied, "Just the same as these." She has worn the new set on red vulcanite without any return of the trouble.

The second case was a parallel of the first, and you can judge with what grim satisfaction I received it. The lady was the wife of a Boston merchant, who had come to Marblehead to spend the summer. She had been anxious about the condition of her mouth for some time, and had consulted several Boston dentists, who had told her that her mouth was, or might be, poisoned with the rubber, and she must have a gold plate. As I had some friends in the family, they induced her to come to me. My object being to demonstrate scientific truth, I threw pecuniary considerations aside, and proceeded as in the first case (that is, refitting the plate by the eye), and with the same result. At her suggestion I made her a new set on red rubber. To prove the satisfaction of herself and family, her husband, becoming the