

soft spots in the vulcanized article. For all purposes I would prefer of the samples before me the Hard Rubber Co.'s, as combining in the greatest degree the characteristics of a good rubber. It will be observed that with one exception the samples in the first series were stronger than the same rubber of the second series, some of them very markedly so. From this and other observations made from time to time I am of opinion that increasing the heat beyond 320° and shortening the time produces an article inferior in strength.

My impression is that vulcanizing the varieties in general use at a temperature of from 290° to 300° for 100 to 120 minutes would produce an article of better color and of materially greater strength. I hope some day to have leisure to verify these experiments and to satisfy myself more fully of the merits of the various preparations of rubber offered to the profession. In the mean time if I have excited in the mind of any member of the society sufficient interest in this question to induce him to experiment for himself my object in writing this paper will have been fully accomplished.

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## PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

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### FIRST DISTRICT DENTAL SOCIETY OF NEW YORK.

At the meeting of this society, held in April, 1870, a paper was read by Dr. Atkinson on "Wasted Alveolar Process."

The paper started out with the declaration that to ask questions upon this particular subject requires more of him who is to *answer*, than enters into the mind of most persons who ask them. The greatest difficulty in the way of clear elucidation and explanation to dentists as a class, is their utter lack of knowledge in histology.

"Coming into the practice of dentistry from the shop, rather than from the college, is the principal cause of this lack." "And even those who have availed themselves of all the colleges have taught are yet in the alphabet of histologic science." "Inspection of the exterior of systems and organs is not sufficient,—we must become familiar with the character of bodies too small to be seen by the natural sight, before we can comprehend the subject of function." In order to make a proper diagnosis and prognosis of a case, a knowledge of the formation, growth and nutrition of the parts concerned is necessary. The normal function of the territory