charge of a considerable quantity of white-of-egg fluid showed that the tumor really was an example of acute ranula.—*Philadelphia University Journal of Medicine.*

PRESERVATION OF THE TEETH.

BY H. NICHOLS WADSWORTH, D. D. S., WASHINGTON, D. C.

ONLY the prostration resulting from an attack of nervous fever prevented me, some months since, from avowing my firm belief in the soundness and enlightened views advanced by Dr. Robert Arthur, for a more perfect and successful preservation of the teeth entrusted to us by the confiding public, through a more general *anticipation and prevention* of disease, where our experience has convinced us it must inevitably follow. The propositions advanced by Dr. Arthur, in their general character, are, in my opinion, sound and uncontrovertible; they are calculated, when acted upon by discriminating, honest, and skillful practitioners, to *greatly* increase the per cent. of successful practice; to decrease the expense to our patrons; and, what in my mind is a far greater pleasure than either, afford the satisfaction to our own hearts which is engendered by success.

Twenty odd years of zealous, hearty labor in my profession, with a critical observation of the results of other practitioners of known and acknowledged skill, has demonstrated, beyond controverting, the large number of failures in a few years after performance of approximal fillings. The honest, conscientious in our profession will, I think, acknowledge its truth. If, then, this be true, is it not better for us to adopt some method by which we can decrease the number of unsuccessful operations, and increase those that are successful?

Please to remember, I am not urging this method of practice upon the student and tyro in our profession, but upon the skillful and experienced practitioner,—upon him who knows *when, where, and how* to extract, to separate, and to stop or fill.

Where is the practitioner of ten years' standing that can deny the assertion that, on an average, three out of four of all his patients have lost more or less of their bicuspid teeth—probably four of them? If this is a true average, why should we not then sacrifice four of these teeth early in life, when by doing so we obtain room for an expansion of all the other teeth, in a great measure relieving the crowded condition occasioned by the eruption of the second molars (second dentition), and which is greatly increased by the eruption of