

The profession of dentistry has made very decided progress during the past fifty years, and has now reached a high state of

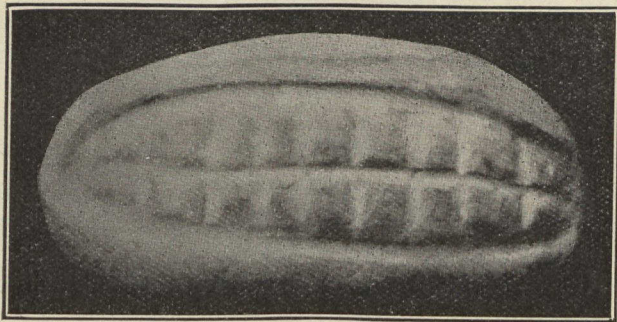


Fig. 1.—Worn behind the lips for appearance only.

perfection in the matter of repair of diseased teeth and the replacement of lost ones by artificial substitutes.

DENTISTRY OF THE FUTURE.

A great deal of attention is now being given by scientific men to the study of prevention of disease in all its forms, and much success has already been achieved along this line.

In dentistry to-day the trend of thought is especially directed toward prevention of decay and other pathological conditions by a system of cleansing of the mouth and teeth and the regulation of the quality of the secretions. Oral prophylaxis is the name applied to this particular branch of dentistry, which is receiving more and more attention each year. It is believed that in time the chief energy of the thorough and up-to-date dentist will be expended along this line, in order that destruction of the teeth may be prevented. He will take particular care, too, to instruct his patients in the best methods of caring for and cleansing their mouths and teeth. The dentistry of the future will be a preventive rather than a curative treatment.

As we become more enlightened upon the subject of cleanliness, we will begin to reap more fully the benefits of its practice; in fact, we are now able to control to a great extent the spread of disease, by vaccination against some forms, purification of drinking water, food, etc., prevention of accumulation of filth, and cleanliness of our persons and surroundings generally.

A great many forms of disease are caused by germs which enter the body, chiefly through the mouth, which latter has been aptly termed "the vestibule to the whole system." The members of