

Dr. LASKEY then read his paper entitled, "Apparent Mercurial Poisoning from Red Vulcanite." (See page 338).

Dr. NASE said that deep air chambers caused that condition described in the paper, and cited one case where the trouble was cured by making a plate without any air chamber in it.

Dr. GODSOE said he had four or five cases where sore mouth was present while using red vulcanite, but it disappeared after a black plate was made. Two cases in particular, a mother and daughter, each having a small partial denture of red vulcanite, complained of a heated tense feeling. He made in each case a black plate and there have since been no complaints. It seemed impossible that there should be enough mercury in either of the small plates to cause poisoning, but the condition was such that he knew of no other solution to the difficulty.

Dr. BARBOUR, when he meets with a patient complaining of her plate or her mouth, paints the plate with a mixture of glycerine and carbolic acid in the proportions of 12 to 1 and finds it very soothing.

Dr. MCAVENNEY said that when that burning sensation was complained of and the plate fitted well, he put it down as almost conclusively proving there was poisoning.

Dr. WHITNEY attributed the heated condition with red appearance and sore corners of the mouth to acid secretions. Upper and lower plates are sometimes made too short, thereby allowing the mouth to occupy too much of the face, and, as a consequence, the sores appear at the corners.

Dr. PARTRIDGE said that some people are so much more susceptible to the action of certain drugs than others; what would cause symptoms of mercurial poisoning in one case would not in another. He instanced a case of extreme susceptibility to the action of arsenic where an application for devitalizing a pulp resulted in the development of symptoms of arsenical poisoning.

Mr. TOWNE threw out the suggestion that perhaps the different colored plates might, in different degrees, retain or absorb heat, and cause a condition which might be mistaken for mercurial poisoning.

Dr. DAVIS said that only yesterday he had a patient presenting conditions identical with those described by Dr. Laskey. He had decided to make a new plate of black vulcanite, but now, since hearing of Dr. Laskey's success he intended experimenting, as he had done, before making a new plate.

Dr. LASKEY, in closing the discussion, said there were very few cases which bore so evenly as to interfere with the circulation, which he felt was the condition in these two cases. They were