

on to the pins. We know the tendency of the pulp dying under a capping of cement. Recent investigation has shown that, in some of the cements, there is a trace of arsenic in the oxide of zinc. This may account for the death of the pulp. We know cement has its faults as a filling material, but, to change an old song, "With all its faults we love it still," and once more I say: "God bless the man who discovered oxyphosphate cement."

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### APPARENT MERCURIAL POISONING FROM RED VULCANITE. \*

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The subject which I present for your consideration is an old one. Some years ago it was quite freely reported upon, and discussed in the dental journals, but of late we have not heard much of it; not that I think the matter was in any way settled, as there seems to be some doubt in the dental profession, and also among the general public, as to the possibility of mercurial poisoning from red vulcanite in the mouth. I think this is indicated by the considerable use of black rubber, and of red rubber lined with metal, and by the alloys for base plates, which have been placed on the market. In these days of rapid and cheap production we must admit that vulcanite has been a benefit to the millions wearing artificial dentures, and leaving out the question of whether the advent of vulcanite has had an elevating or, as some claim, a degrading effect on prosthetic dentistry, we should discuss it solely in the interest of scientific truth. Having had two cases which may throw some light on the question, I thought the report of them may be of interest to you.

The first case was that of a lady of middle age and good general health. She had worn a full upper denture on a red rubber base for some years. She had had an uncomfortable feeling in her mouth for some time, and at last, from inspection, she and her family had become alarmed, and she came to me for treatment. An examination showed the membrane upon which the plate had rested to be in a very congested condition, in fact almost to the point of suppuration. It did not have the red look of ordinary inflammation, but was of a deep, brown color like liver, gradually fading and merging into the usual color of the surrounding parts.

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