

THE CANADA Journal of Dental Science.

Vol. III.]

April, 1871.

[No. 6.]

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

THE MANUFACTURE OF ARTIFICIAL TEETH.

Read before the Montreal Dental Society.

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In the manufacture of artificial teeth on this continent, there are so many firms competing, that the article manufactured, instead of improving, has rather deteriorated in the last few years. Whether it is the manufacturer's or the dentist's fault, I do not know, but there is one thing certain, viz: that cheapness! is the cry.

When the vendor of artificial teeth enters the dentist's office, praise though we may, ever so much, his wares, there is one thing above all others he keeps forcing on your attention, and that is how cheap these particular teeth are;—"Why I can sell you those teeth (gum teeth) for two dollars a full set." Such teeth! Save us and preserve us! I expect some day to have some teeth offered me made of borax. I believe there are some teeth that have got down to one dollar a set. I do not think they will go any lower, and sincerely hope not.

I had an old Scotch gentleman with me some time ago who smashed his set as fast as it was put into his mouth, and one day, with a doleful countenance, he asked me if I "could na fit sum'at into his mou' as'ud staun him." He had pulled off block after block, and what was I to do? I could make the pins hold in the rubber, but alas! I could not make them hold in the teeth. One day, searching amongst odds and ends, I came across a box of "ye ancient teeth," made, I think, gentlemen, before either you or I were born! "Old Alport." Few perhaps have ever heard the name, but here was a visible testimony of the old gentleman having once existed, and a goodly man he must have been in his day, for stout old teeth were these. To be sure the colours were rather peculiar, varying from a dark blue to a bright yellow, but perhaps our ancestors