

be in danger of impinging upon the anterior palatal canal, causing severe pain by pressure upon the nerves. To avoid this, it is best to place the cavity as far back as possible. He preferred plates without chamber, depending upon accuracy of fit to hold them in position, but seldom found patients willing to dispense with the extra anchor for their "false substitutes." Although advocating that method for the insertion of artificial teeth, he rarely practices it; finding, as Shakespeare makes Portia say, that he "can easier teach twenty what were good to be done, than to be one of the twenty to follow mine own teaching."

Dr. Howard thought that, by giving a decisive preference for either of the methods, he should place himself in a fort from which he had no retreat; and, to make the best of it, would most likely be compelled to succumb to the powers which had a free range. He had met with cases that struck him with astonishment, not being able to account for their adhesion; these were small plates, composed of either silver or gold, extending upon the roof of the mouth as far as the rugæ are found, and longitudinally or circumferentially from cuspid to cuspid, right and left; held originally with clasps, but now by nothing but the perfection of adaptation. This he thought settled the problem. To obtain satisfaction from the beginning cannot be invariably accomplished in partial cases, without the use of a stay clasp or springing of the plate with force about the palatine or labial necks of the teeth. Therefore he concluded by saying that both clasps and atmospheric pressure are good, yet neither should nor can be made obsolete.

Dr. Stellwagen had inserted single teeth upon suction plates, and found them to answer well for all purposes required, although subjected to rigid tests. He thought clasps should only be used after the atmospheric pressure was found to be inadequate to meet all the requirements. He often met parties able to wear plates from which the clasps had been broken, yet prior to that accident the patient had deemed them essential to comfort and success in wearing.

Prof. Smith thought the subject under consideration to be one of great practical importance, affecting as it does the appearance and comfort of a very considerable number of patients, while often taxing the skill and jeopardizing the reputation of the dentist. A matter of so much moment demands careful study, and requires that in forming conclusions, we be assisted by sound judgment and practical experience. Very opposite opinions have been expressed this evening