

hits the mucous membrane here and there till the tissue becomes hypertrophied, and finally there remains only a soft bed for the plate to rest on. But there is less absorption under an aluminum plate swaged between two metal surfaces and driven home on a plaster die; it fits so beautifully you can bring out the rugæ in an upper plate. You have all seen those soft mushy jaws where all the anterior part is like a second tongue; but you will have no more of that if you will adopt the swaged aluminum. I earnestly recommend to you the process of swaging metal plates over the plaster die, and assure you you need not break the model.

WOODEN TOOTHPICKS.—Dr. H. R. Neeper writes the *Dental Digest*, condemning the use of cheap wooden toothpicks, such as are found in restaurants. He has had numerous cases presenting such symptoms that at first glance it appeared as if an abscess was forming, but, on close examination, found pieces of toothpick broken off in space. In other cases the constant use of toothpicks has caused the crowding away of the festoon of the gum, and the consequent exposure of the neck of the tooth to sensitiveness, heat, cold, touch, and also making it very liable to decay. His first treatment in this class of cases is to give the patient a lecture on the use and abuse of the toothpick. Then he thoroughly cleanses and removes all foreign matter, touching the sensitive points with carbolic acid. If a second treatment is necessary, he touches with nitrate of silver. The patient is directed to put a small pledget of cotton in the space before meals, and after eating to brush and rinse the teeth thoroughly, and then to remove the cotton and rinse again. As a rule, the annoyance ceases, and the gum fills the space in a few days.

SHOCK AND STRAIN RESULTING FROM DENTAL OPERATIONS.—Speaking of the disastrous results sometimes following the performance of severe dental operations upon delicate patients, the editor of the *Dental Record* says: "It is no rare thing to have patients refer to some past time when they were having their teeth put in order, as an experience they would never again repeat, and which had made them feel nervous and worn out for months. Inquiry usually elicits the fact that they had sat in the chair for hours consecutively, and had attended, day after day. Well may we ask, Is this a desired result? Is there no simpler way, no less wearing method of treating the teeth of such delicate, highly strung patients? Is it wise practice to attempt elaborate work, lasting for a few years, at the risk of letting the teeth be neglected for many years? Has not the practitioner rather overlooked the fact that he is not dealing with an inanimate object, and that it is as important to read correctly the character and endurance of his patient as it is to aim at mechanical perfection."