

many even of their own profession, looked upon the use of amalgams as filling materials as endangering the lives of their patients. They remembered, too, that the use of rubber as a base for artificial dentures was opposed on the same grounds ; and so, with a perfect knowledge of the anatomy of the parts to be operated on, and with all the care in the direction of perfect disinfection which modern science could suggest, they went on investigating and experimenting.

What has been the result? Hundreds of teeth have been implanted, and so far from death or serious illness being the result, in the great majority of cases the operation has been eminently successful, and the result gratifying to both patient and operator. It is true the word success must be used in a modified sense, as it may be questioned whether sufficient time has elapsed to enable a proper decision to be arrived at ; but, inasmuch as teeth which were implanted more than four years ago are still doing good service, and since, too, even if at this late stage they should loosen and become useless, it would require nothing more than a slight temporary inconvenience to have them replaced by others, I think the operation may safely be said to have been a success in the majority of cases reported.

This being its past history, it is interesting to speculate as to its future. That the implantation of natural human teeth will ever take the place of artificial dentures is impossible, on account of the limited supply of suitable material ; for, as dental science becomes better understood, the tendency to conservation of the natural organs is increased, and the number of healthy teeth extracted is decreased. But is it not possible that artificial teeth made of porcelain, or some other mineral material, may be so prepared that, when implanted into artificial sockets, they will be encapsuled and firmly retained? Some will say at once that this is impossible, because the presence of the pericemental membrane is necessary in order to secure union ; but the experience of Dr. Curtis, who has implanted about fifty teeth with good success, shows that even this is not necessary, for from nearly every tooth he purposely scraped away the entire periosteum without apparently endangering the success of the operation in any way.

The operation of implantation in itself is a comparatively simple one, and there is not wanting variety in the methods pursued by