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A Plea for the Preservation of the Natural Teeth.

Read before the Ontario Dental Society, Toronto, July, 1892.

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The Committee on Programme have assigned the above subject to me for a paper. Had they asked me to choose a subject for myself, this certainly would not have been the title. It never would have occurred to me that there existed a disposition to remove natural teeth, to the extent that any special pleading in their behalf would be in good taste or called for. That they have done so leads me to think that there is a necessity for something to be said on the subject. Where it exists, why it exists, and to what extent, I am at a loss to determine. There may be a few, one or two, perhaps a score of dental surgeons in Ontario who need reconstructing. That there are many I do not believe. In all learned professions there will be found some, whose interpretation of the meaning of a word or the sense of a phrase is very different from the generally accepted idea. So we may have those among us who do not exactly grasp the meaning of the word dentistry, more particularly the symbolic combinations of L.D.S., D.D.S., or M.D.S.

That there should at the present day appear to be a necessity,