as well as other countries, practice dentistry simply for the dollars which it brings them, and are consequently satisfied with any material that is offered them, which tends to increase their profits. From these, and it may be other causes, improvement in vulcanite for dental purposes has been left mainly to the manufacturers, who, apparently satisfied with their sales, put themselves to little trouble to cater to the wants of the progressive dentist.

On no subject of anything like equal interest to the dentist has so little been published in our dental periodicals by the prominent men of the profession.

While regretting that such should be the case, I do not for a moment presume to be able to supply the deficiency. However good the will to do so might be, the necessary leisure, skill and means are entirely wanting.

The experiments proposed are within the easy reach of every intelligent dentist.

If we have not the means at hand of improving the quality of vulcanite, we have at least the means of ascertaining by careful experiment which, of all the samples offered to the profession, are best suited to our wants, as also the heat and length of time necessary to produce the best vulcanized rubber. On these two points I propose to experiment. When the subject of this paper was announced I expected to have had much more leasure to devote to it than other and pressing engagements have left me.

The samples which I have tested are nine in number, viz.: "Boston Star," "English Red," "English Pink," "Hard Rubber Co.," "Black," "White," "C. Ash & Son," "Johnson & Lund," and a sample furnished by Mr. Chittenden, maker unknown. The results, while they have not been entirely satisfactory to myself, have induced me to discard the rubber which I have been using for some time from the conviction that it is not equal in strength to other samples of equally good appearance. The essentials of a good rubber are toughness, elasticity, rigidity with a certain amount of flexibility, suitable color, density, and susceptibility of polish. To ascertain the comparative degree in which these characteristics were possessed by the samples under consideration I carefully prepared two small strips of each—making them all as nearly as possible of the same size and thickness.

These I vulcanized, the first series, for one hour, at a temperature of 320°. The second series, for forty minutes, at a temperature of 350°. Having them prepared, to ascertain their relative