

disease about the posterior parts of the jaws is coincident with the absence of the wisdom tooth from the usual situation, that the lost teeth may be buried in the substance of the bone, and be the existing cause of mischief."—A System of Dental Surgery, by John Tomes, F.R.S., pp. 195-6.

Croydon, Surrey, England,
June 27, 1868.

AN ARTIFICIAL PALATE.

BY J. NEELANDS, LINDSAY, ONT.

In the month of July, 1866, H. G., a young man residing about 20 miles distant, called to consult me respecting the possibility of getting an *artificial palate* or *obturator* that would be of service to him. He was accompanied by his sister to interpret for him, as he was so literally dumb that it was impossible to understand anything he said. This was caused by an opening or defect in the upper part of his palate. Upon inquiring into the history of the case, I ascertained that about ten years previous, he had been attacked with a disease in his eyes, which had been treated for a length of time with very powerful medicines. The disease finally located in the region of the palate causing the destruction of a large portion of the superior maxillary bone.

Such was the extent of the disease that an open space was left which extended from the canine tooth of the left superior maxilla to the corresponding place of right superior maxilla and including the nasal spine and processes of the incisive teeth anteriorly and the palate spine and palate bones posteriorly together with the palate process, crista nasalis, part of the vomer, and horizontal plate of the palate bone. A large open space was left which extended laterally nearly an inch and a half, and posteriorly to the velum pendulum palati about two inches.

This case was very distressing to the sufferer as well as to his friends.

He could not articulate a single word; eating and drinking were most painful to him; the food and liquid passing up into his nose. He also presented a most unnatural appearance; the four incisor teeth were gone, and the upper lip and nose very much sunken. He as well as his friends were very anxious that something should be done to alleviate his sufferings.

I saw that the principle difficulty at the outset was to obtain a correct impression owing to the peculiar shape of the parts to be taken. This I succeeded in taking; previous to which I plugged the cavity in the palate with cotton wool.