

injured in vulcanizing or otherwise, will fit not only the mouth, so that atmospheric pressure is obtained, but as a packing ridge encircling it, which prevents ingress of air, under it, and thereby secures the pressure on the outside. I make the ridge as high all round the plate as is possible taking care that it does not pinch the flesh on the bone; as it is not necessary to have it hurt at all to secure the plate firmly.

In finishing the plate I do not reduce the ridge in width or height, or break its continuity. When ready to put in, I let the patient carry it to its place and after wearing it ten or fifteen minutes, if the ridge is hurting in any place, I reduce it at the point indicated, by scraping it a little until the plate sets easily. There are points along the edge of the plate where the under surface would need reducing, if no ridge was present; I reduce it and the ridge correspondingly. If after the plate has been worn a day or two, some points are bearing too hard, I reduce the ridge at those points. I had much rather have a patient come in and say that the plate is firmly fixed in the mouth, but is hurting at some point, than to have them say they can do nothing with them, because in the first case I can correct it, but in the last I have trouble. The reason why a plate made in this way is so firmly secured, is well set forth by Dr. Davis of New Bedford, when he says there is a movement of the plate attending mastication, and the least lifting admits the air and down comes the plate, whereas the packing ridge allows of this movement without admitting the air.

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## MISCELLANEOUS.

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**BDELLATOMY. TAKING ADVANTAGE OF A LEECH.**—A curious practice lately introduced in Germany is the cutting of the leech so that the blood will flow out of his body as fast as he sucks it from the patient. An ounce, or even two ounces, may be drawn in this way by a single leech. The spring lancet is preferred, though a thumb lancet will answer. The incision is made in the side, the left side being preferable, and at the time when the leech has nearly filled himself, and just before he is ready to stop sucking. The wound is kept free from coagulated blood by a warm sponge, or even by injecting warm water into the wound. If from rough handling the leech falls off, it takes hold again without difficulty. The process has been named *Bdellatomy* (*bdella*, a leech).