

The Bastard, in *King John*, sneers at

Your traveller—

He and his toothpick at my worship's mess.

Travellers in France and Italy, it seems, brought tooth-picks back, and used them ostentatiously; and all those who affected foreign fashions sedulously imitated them. Commonly a case of toothpicks made of wood was carried about by fine gentlemen. A more violent eccentricity of fashion is pointed at by Sir Thomas Overbury, who describes a courtier as walking in St. Paul's "with a pick-tooth in his hat, a cape cloak, and a long stocking." Apparently the "Johnny" of the present day, who is so unremitting in his use of the homely quill, has inherited the tooth-pick and his flourishing display of it from the cox-combs that thronged the court of the Virgin Queen.—*Dominion Dental Journal.*

ARTICLE VIII.

A NEW LINING FOR VULCANITE PLATES.

BY L. CROWTHER, D. D S., LAUREL, MD.

Rubber dam as a lining for vulcanite plates cannot be surpassed. You proceed as usual with your case and when ready for packing, first pack round the pins and flange; then cut a piece of red rubber the shape and size of your cast, large enough to come up as high as you will require your case when finished. Then lay a new cream thin piece of rubber dam on this and cut out a piece to fit, remove and paint your red plate all over with good red or black rubber solder or cement on one side, being careful that it is all covered well with the cement. Now take the piece of dam and place it smoothly on the painted side of your plate; press well down; make it quite smooth, being sure there are no air bubbles. If your dam has stretched, which it will, trim the edges to the

red plate. Place your plate in the flask so that your dam will come next your cast. When you close your flask, be sure and see that the plate comes well up round the flange so as to hug close to the model and not allow any red rubber to be forced inside. Close your case by dry heat. Use paper vacuums, and not tin as the dam will not harden over tin.

Rubber dam is better than gold for a lining as it is a non-conductor, prevents sore mouths and makes a very tough plate almost impossible to break; so you can make a thin, light piece of work.

Editorial, Etc..

A DEMONSTRATION OF HYPNOTISM.

AT THE MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF DENTAL SURGEONS, OF BALTIMORE, Wm. Lee Howard, M. D., was invited to speak upon the value of hypnotism to the dental profession. We give a brief synopsis of Dr. Howard's practical talk :

Gentlemen: It is a very difficult task for me in a few minutes talk to go any further than that of giving some practical illustrations and statements of the total anæsthesia that can be produced by the physical force, misnamed hypnotism. Its interest to you solely is that by this force you can extract teeth and perform any dental operations painlessly and safely without the use of the various anæsthetics now in use. From our point of view hypnotism is soon to revolutionize the present treatment of morphinism, alcoholism, insomnia, and the various nervous diseases. As interesting as it would be for me to explain to you the inhibitory action produced by hypnotism, its various conditions, and its universal use at present in the large hospitals in Europe, I will confine myself to facts. Your worthy president has had a practical illustration of