

that all pressure of the teeth upon each other be prevented as much as may be, so that each shall occupy its respective place, independent of its neighbor, and if slight spaces exist between them, they may be preserved much better, as in that case the lodgement of all corosive matter will be effectually prevented by a judicious use of the brush after each meal.

Having procured a healthy permanent denture, the next question of importance is, how can they be preserved? In the first place, the secretions of the mouth should be kept normal, which can only be done by attention to the general health, by the use of proper and wholesome food, and a regular practice of exercise and bathing. The use of mouth washes, lotions and tooth powders are entirely useless in *correcting* this difficulty, and when they are used, the best application is *pure water*.

It must also be borne in mind *that entire and absolute cleanliness of the mouth is indispensably necessary, if we would have healthy dentures*. To obtain this a thorough and frequent application of the brush is the only means required, while as a tooth powder the most beneficial that can be recommended is a small quantity of castile soap and water.

In the next number I shall notice the causes of decay, and the best means to prevent its ravages.

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CAMDEN, S. C., Sept. 1st, 1858.

Mr. JOHN T. TOLAND,

SIR:—I have your August number of the Dental Reporter, and cheerfully comply with your very moderate terms of subscription. As I can not repay you by ordering goods, I send you Post office stamps.

I see that C. P. Baird has nearly arrived at perfection in making swages for artificial dentures. If you will turn to the article "Model" in Harris' Dental Dictionary, you will see Lee's method on page 509, which for perfection of fit and expedition of construction, requires only to be known to supercede all others. I use the same metal for male and female casts.

I see you are down on Blandy's Cheoplasty, (and justly so.) His admirers and certifiers were certainly ignorant of the ancient Family Pill, which his antimonial plate will fully supercede.

The Pill I allude to was celebrated by Dr. J. R. Coxe, of the University of Pennsylvania, it consists simply of a bullet of antimony—this was swallowed by the member of the family requiring an aperient. Its oxydation produced a strong cathartic effect, it was watched for, well washed and put away for future use. Among the many virtues certified to be possessed by Blandy's Plates, they have neglected to praise its aperient powers, which is sometimes required by their not masticating their food well, and this to the great saving of expense for a variety of Patent Pills. I suppose you have seen the array of certificates published by Blandy. Of the names appended, some I know, some I know not.

I asked one who had certified to the cleanliness of the Plate, what he meant by it; his reply was, that it was easily cleaned, it was readily covered with oxide, but it was easily brushed off.

I agree with you, that men patenting a process in a profession which aspires to be liberal, benefit themselves neither in money or reputation; their patents are mostly humbugs, and they get money generally only from upstarts in the profession.

Blandy's alloy is essentially tin and antimony, for without antimony you cannot make a full cast; the fine face of printer's types depend on the property of expansion in antimony, as it passes from the fluid form on cooling; this it does by crystallization, the lead giving it solidity.

Blandy's array of alloys is like the boy's "every thing at you," an expression used in playing marbles, and is only claimed in hopes an alloy may be made to answer the purpose.

Yours,

J. LEE, M. D., D. D. S.

CAMDEN, Oct. 1st, 1858.

Mr. JOHN T. TOLAND,

DEAR SIR:—From the little I know of Blandy's Cheoplastic metal, I have no doubt a perfect fit may be made with it; but how any man at all acquainted with metallurgy can certify to such oxidable compounds remaining pure in the mouth, where 18 carat gold readily tarnishes, I can not understand.

You ask to publish the letter written to you. I have no copy of it, still if you think any useful end can be accomplished by it in putting down quackery in Dentistry, with however high names it may be foisted on the community, I have no objection, as I certainly in it said nothing I did not know or believe.

The reference I made to my mode of making swages for

stamping gold plate was right as to the paging of the 1st edition, I have no subsequent edition by me. I will copy it, its very simplicity may have caused it to be left out, but those who try it will not readily give it up.

MODELS, Lee's method of obtaining:—

I take the impression in the usual manner, preferring simply the clean yellow wax to any preparation of it. I fill the mould with prepared plaister, raising above the teeth and gums (with sheet iron ring) a body about half an inch high. This I trim smooth before hardening, melt off the wax and dry the plaister cast well in the fire, wrap it in two or three turns of common stiff paper, pass a string round it, and you have a cup prepared to receive the metal.

This consists of one part by weight of type metal, and two parts of lead, previously melted together and run into ingots, to make a perfect alloy. This alloy is easily fused, and retains its fluidity at a low heat; it is hard when cold, and in cooling does not shrink, the antimony in the type metal having the property of expanding in cooling.

This alloy melted, but not quite hot enough to show the blue color, the proper degree of heat can be easily tested by a strip of paper; if the paper is not charred, but merely scorched, the temperature is right. It is now poured on the plaister model so as to cover the gums, and nearly to the top of the teeth; the teeth should not be covered the first pouring, as there is generally an escape of vapor from the plaister, even after well drying; as soon as this ceases, having kept the metal hot, the mould should be filled up forming a solid body above the teeth. When cold take out the plaister, envelope the metal cast just made in paper, and make the reverse swage by pouring in the metal somewhat colder than first used.

I separate the casts and taking the first or female die, fill up the impression of the teeth with bits of soft paper, and make by pouring as above, an impression of the gums, &c., without the teeth. This I use in giving my first fit to the gold plate, taking now the swage with teeth, I apply the gold plate and cut away as much gold as will enable me with but little force, to drive the dies together; part them, trim the plate as may be necessary, re-apply, and with a sledge hammer drive up by striking round the edges and finishing by a few blows in the middle. You will find your plate will fit the mouth with accuracy.

Yours,

J. LEE, M. D., D. D. S.