

**CROWN, BAR, AND BRIDGE-
WORK: NEW METHODS OF
PERMANENTLY ADJUSTING
ARTIFICIAL TEETH WITHOUT
PLATES**

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ISIDORE E. CLIFFORD & R. E. CLIFFORD

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BY

ISIDORE E. CLIFFORD AND R. E. CLIFFORD.

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PREFACE.

THE object of the following pages is to explain a system of preserving Decayed, and supplying Artificial Teeth, which has been for some years in use most successfully in America, but has hitherto not been introduced into England. The system is in many ways more cleanly, durable, and satisfactory than the old-fashioned methods. We have, therefore, prepared this account to explain to the Medical Profession, and those interested in the subject, the advantages of the system of Dentistry known as CROWN, BAR, AND BRIDGE-WORK. If the explanations be found too curt or incomplete, we can only rely for apology on the exigencies of active practice.

ISIDORE E. CLIFFORD.

R. E. CLIFFORD.

8 GROSVENOR STREET, W.

Crown, Bar, and Bridge-work.

THE necessity of the preservation of the teeth for health, comfort, and appearance, need not here be dilated upon. To those who do not value their teeth these pages are not addressed, they are submitted to those who desire to take advantage of the most elegant, cleanly, and satisfactory operations in dentistry. Such patients have hitherto had to be satisfied with what ordinary English dentists did for them, putting up with discomfort and inconveniences because they thought that these were necessary adjuncts of anything artificial, and because they did not know of the existence of the methods about to be explained.

For the last thirty years in England dentistry has

made little or no progress; but in America it has been slowly and steadily improving year by year, culminating in recent years in very great improvements. These have been introduced in order to overcome the several disadvantages connected with the ordinary methods of treating decayed teeth and adjusting Artificial ones. Experience has drawn up a long indictment against the use of plates and fastenings, the chief of which may be summed up in the following enumeration.

Disadvantages of Old Methods.

Teeth decayed beyond a small cavity are useless and are usually extracted, unless a very lengthy operation is performed to save them. All roots are useless, except those of front teeth, which can be pivoted. Pivot teeth, *i.e.*, teeth fastened to the roots with a pivot, pin or screw, are only temporary operations, rarely lasting more than a year or two. They do not preserve the root to which they are attached, and in which decay extends until the pivot loosens. Then, they are not clean, since particles of food can collect between root and tooth; they are never so strong nor firm as "crowned" teeth on the new method,

since in addition to the pivot the crown fits over the root like a cap and has an external grasp of it, so that it is hermetically sealed. Roots decayed too far for pivoting can be crowned. Artificial teeth fastened with plates or wires to the other teeth take up unnecessary room in the mouth. They are in the way of articulation, singing, &c., interfere with the sense of taste, and involve the trouble of being constantly removed for cleaning. After meals, particles of food always collect under them until they are cleaned. Though often cleaned they are rarely thoroughly clean, and always injure the teeth to which they may be fastened, or any part of any tooth the fastenings or plate may touch (*a*). They are dangerous, as they are easily broken, displaced, or even swallowed. The constant removal of plates injures and loosens the teeth by which they are held. The fastening and plates assist detection; and, finally, they frequently require altering as the mouth alters, and are a constant trouble and expense.

In opposition to this long list of objections it has been proved that the methods described in these

(*a*) It must, however, be stated that they rarely injure inside lower front teeth.

pages obviate most of them, and at the same time present special advantages of their own, as may be seen from the following explanation:—

Advantages of Crown, Bar, and Bridge-work.

Simple CROWNS cover and save the worst teeth or roots in any part of the mouth; by hermetically sealing them they permanently prevent decay; they are painless in their application; they do not necessitate the lengthy and tedious operation of large gold fillings, and prevent any future pain or trouble; and when plates are being worn these may be attached to a crowned tooth without injuring it. Crowned roots or teeth are thoroughly useful for mastication. When teeth are replaced on this method, the small cap on the root prevents them decaying, and does not allow particles of food, or the secretions of the mouth to get between the root and tooth. If fixed properly they are as strong, firm, and durable as natural teeth.

BAR-WORK (where no roots remain and only a few teeth are required) saves the necessity of a plate and all its accompanying annoyances, discomforts, and disadvantages. It consists of attaching artificial teeth