the anchor tooth. This appliance described in Angle's work shows the use of the screw similar to the one shown in Fig. 5. Now, in order to have stationary anchorage with the traction screw, the traction screw must be so rigidly attached, and so rigidly constructed, that there will be no bending in that portion of the attachment on the canine and on the molar. It must also be so accurately adjusted that there will be no play between the tube that is soldered to the molar

Fig. 5.

band and the portion of the screw that extends to the canines. In order to insure the rigidity in the use of the stationary anchorage, there should be as much of a point of bearing between the fixed portion of the appliance and the moving portion of the appliance as is possible. In other words, all tubes which are rigidly attached to the bands on the anchor teeth should be as long as possible to receive the portion of the appliance that is going to be the active part.

In the next installment of this paper we will take up the various methods of obtaining stationary anchorage with the alignment wire.

A "PATENT" SUGGESTION

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SINCE the time of the invention of the porcelain crown, the subject of patents has occupied the attention of the dental profession to a great extent.

From the beginning of time men have progressed by invention, which is nothing more nor less than the discovery of a new idea, and laws have been made with the object of protecting the inventor so that he can reap the benefits therefrom.

There are, however, a great number of men whose only desire is to create something new and useful, and the big majority of men in the dental profession belong, I think, to this class. But owing to the fact that there are those who are unscrupulous enough to take advantage of this generosity, these men have been compelled to protect their inventions by law when they had no wish to get any financial gain therefrom.

I would therefore suggest that the National Dental Association take the matter of patents into their hands and either create a board commission to look after this subject, or make it a part of the Research Commission. If this were done, men in all branches of the profession, and the public at large, could send their inventions to this department of the National Dental Association knowing that no individual would get the benefit of the idea for his personal gain to the exclusion of all others.

This patent board could look into the merits of the invention, and if found worthy of consideration, could obtain a patent in the name of the National Dental Association, giving the originator due credit on their records and in the *Journal of the National Dental Association*.

The dental profession, especially in America, has reached its high standard of efficiency through the inventive genius of its members; and there have been many new ideas of great value which have never gone beyond the door of the office because the founders did not wish to undergo the expense of obtaining a patent, or take the chance of losing them by giving them to the profession, and then have some one else get the patent on their article and make them pay royalty for the creation of their own minds; also for the reason that they did not wish to place themselves in the position of trying to collect a royalty from other members of the profession.

If this suggested system had been a fact a number of years ago, there is no doubt that a great deal of trouble would have been avoided; e. g., previous to the time of the discovery of the method of making the cast gold inlay, the disappearing wax models had been used for other purposes. If this had been recorded and taken care of by the National Dental Association at the time of its real discovery, no process patents would ever have been given and no trials for infringements would ever have entered the courts.

This may all be an old idea and I do not claim originality for it, but from investigations I have been able to make I have not discovered it. I believe, however, that it could be worked out to advantage even if it cost the profession a few cents per head more than their present dues, for all would reap the benefits alike and many disagreeable and costly law proceedings would be eliminated. It would certainly be a cure for a lot of unprofessionalism and trend toward bringing all men closer together for the common good.