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## ADA President 1866-1867: Chauncy P. Fitch

American Dental Association

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# Chauncy P. Fitch

1866-1867

Doctor Fitch, of New York City, was elected sixth president of the Association at the 1866 meeting in Boston. This was a seven-day meeting instead of the usual four. Part of the meeting was concerned with negotiations with the Goodyear company regarding the use of patented vulcanite material in dentures.

Doctor Fitch held a doctor of medicine degree and maintained that dentistry was a specialty of medicine. In a paper delivered at the 1866 meeting, he said that dental education should consist of a "full curriculum of medical study" in addition to the dental courses. Doctor Fitch was one of the founders of the New York College of Dentistry. He was born in Vermont in 1818 and died in 1888.

Congress adopted the fourteenth amendment containing "due process" and "equal protection" clauses guaranteeing civil rights of Negroes. The Ku Klux Klan was formed in Tennessee. In March 1867, the United States purchased Alaska from Russia for \$7,200,000.