

THE DOCTOR DESTROYED MY TEETH

BY R. TROTTER, GUELPH.

The above expression is frequently made use of to Dentists, and in some cases is not without reason.

In the administration of medicine, it often happens, that if the physician does not give proper instructions to his patients, or they are careless about following them, the ingredients prescribed have a most destructive effect on the teeth. Hence, physicians, ought to be very careful to inform their patients when medicines are given which must necessarily act injuriously on the dental organs, if caution be not used, of the necessity of washing the mouth carefully after each dose. Notwithstanding, every care be taken, mercurial Ptyalism frequently affects, permanently, the health of the dental organs. The object of this article, however, is not to teach Doctors their duty, but to suggest to Dental Practitioners that a duty devolves upon them, to protect physicians from the erroneous impression that often prevails with persons after having had a severe illness, viz.:—That the “Doctor destroyed my teeth,” when in reality the Doctor or Medicine may have had nothing to do with it. In severe illness, assimilation and nutrition are deranged, and the teeth, in common with other organs of the body, lose a certain amount of weight and tonicity, while the destructive qualities of those agents which injure them are intensified. And the rapid decay of the teeth afterwards, is not caused by the “Doctor” or Medicine, but by a loss of vigor, the absence of the usual cleansing, and a vitiation of the agents that come in contact with them.

I make these suggestions hoping that the profession will feel it to be their duty to correct an error which has long been prevented.

DENTAL EDUCATION.

BY A. C. COGSWELL, HALIFAX, N. S.

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Doctor Kingsbury, Professor of Dental Histology and Operative Dentistry, commences his lectures by considering Dental Pathology and description of Dentine, with its morbid effects and results, impressing more fully on the minds of the students, by anatomical