

years of age—sometimes not at all, when there is no room for them in the jaw.

During the period of shedding the teeth, if a mother has the least pride or ambition that her children shall have beautiful and regular teeth, it will then exhibit itself, even though she may have been before careless in the matter. It is above all necessary that nature should have fair play, and not be retarded, driven, or misled in her movements by any carelessness of treatment which shall permit disease or irregularity in the temporary teeth to operate against the regular and natural appearance of the permanent set.

Parents should be cautioned with regard to the too early extraction of the temporary teeth, since if they are drawn before the permanent ones are ready to take their places the jaw will not sufficiently lengthen, and an irregular and deformed denture will be the result. If they seem to need professional attention they should be placed under the care of the dentist. I consider it quite as necessary to preserve the teeth of the first dentition in their places while they are needed, and take as much care of them as of the second set. They should be treated in all cases in a similar manner. If they are decayed fill them, if the nerve is exposed destroy or cap it, and then fill. If they have gum boils treat them as you would teeth of the second set. Of course you will not always succeed in healing the fistulous opening, but that is not of much consequence; relieve the pain if possible and retain the tooth. A gum boil is not of much account in children unless it interferes with the general health, and this must be left to the judgment of the dentist. The fears of parents should have nothing to do with it.

To the miserly skinflint dentist who, rather than lose his fee of half a dollar, will pull a child's tooth two years too early, without good and sufficient cause, the above advice will be lost. But to him who, being a dentist, does not forget that he is also a man, and who does not cease to remember that to alleviate pain and prevent deformity is the true destiny of his calling, and that his recompense therefor is only secondary, it will carry something of the intention with which it is given. The responsibility then devolves upon the dentist of impressing upon the mind of his patient the great importance of not tampering with the extraction of children's teeth, and also that the teeth of the first dentition, as well as those of the permanent set, should be kept perfectly clean, in order to preserve them in a healthy condition as long as they are required in the mouth.