

little by little, portions of the inner or outer alveolar plate as the case may require, all efforts of dental skill would be unavailing, and the successful treatment of orthodontia become an impossibility.

There is yet another important physiological action brought into play by this change in the position of the tooth, namely, the deposit of new bone around that part of the root which from having been moved is left unsupported. The irritation caused by moving the tooth excites the alveolo-dental periosteum and surrounding tissues, and induces an increased flow of blood to these parts, occasioning a species of hyper-nutrition, which process continues till no longer required; cell by cell the process of building up new alveolar support around the moved and loosened teeth goes on till they become firmly implanted in the newly acquired position. In the treatment of these cases, and more particularly those in which the objectionable position of the teeth is inherited, too much care cannot be taken to preserve the teeth steadily for a considerable length of time in the desired places. If the use of the plate or other appliance which may be employed to retain the teeth in the acquired situation, be discontinued too soon, the teeth will gradually work back again to their old places. On this subject Mr. Tomes remarks, "It would appear as if there were a natural law tending towards the maintenance of a conformation, when once assumed although an irregular one, and which calls into action the reproduction of a lost part more rapidly in the place in which a tooth has been moved from, than into which it has been moved." The truth of this must be apparent to every dentist of a few years experience, for we have all seen cases in which irregular and very prominent teeth have been brought into position, and which have a few years afterwards apparently become almost as irregular as ever. The cause of failure being, no doubt, the want of proper artificial support for a length of time sufficient to allow of the perfect building up of the new alveolar wall or socket around the roots. On this subject permit me to make another short extract from that part of Mr. Tomes' excellent work on dental surgery, which treats of irregularity, he says: "I believe it is in accordance with the experience of those who have devoted their attention to the treatment of irregularities, that where the front teeth have been brought in by mechanical means, and where mechanical means are required to hold them in place until they become permanently fixed, the treatment must be continued for twelve months. It may not be necessary that the apparatus should be constantly worn for the whole