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CATAPHORESIS IN DENTISTRY.*

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I read several articles on "Cataphoresis," in which I immediately became deeply interested, and concluded to obtain a cataphoric battery as soon as possible. I then thought that as it was a subject which was proving generally interesting to the profession the world over, perhaps it would be interesting to our society to listen to a short paper and experience of one of ourselves with it. I hope, therefore, that although the contents of my paper may not be new to us all, it may help to bring this method of rendering our dental operations painless more directly before the profession in Nova Scotia than it has yet been brought. The derivation and meaning of the word cataphoresis will perhaps be first in order. It is derived from the Greek "cata," downwards, and "phoresis" from "phorein," meaning to trend, bear, travel, *i.e.*, "to travel downwards"—downwards, because electricians of old supposed the current always travelled downwards from positive to negative pole, as in electroplating. Subsequently the term has been used to express the more special application of the phenomena to tissue. Cataphoresis, then, is the flow of fluids with the currents from the positive to negative pole. As used in dentistry, it means the flow of fluids, containing in solution medicines in the shape of obtundents or analgesics, antiseptics and disinfectants, from the positive to negative pole, through tooth tissue, which may be very sensitive, which we wish to obtund or bleach—the cementum of the root, which must be thoroughly disinfected in treatment, or

* Read at Dental Association of Nova Scotia, August 26.