

looped capillaries. The nerves of the pulp come from the superior and inferior maxillary divisions of the fifth, and are seen to form a series of loops.

From the foregoing description, it will be seen that the pulp seems to be constituted of blood vessels and nerves, enveloped by a very delicate membrane, and blood vessels, nerves and membrane are in turn confined in the centre of the hard and unyielding substance of the tooth, which, in the event of any disease of the organ in question, serves to complicate the difficulties, and render the more doubtful any treatment, with a view toward the restoration to health. Now a healthy pulp and a diseased one, when we are treating cases of exposure, are two entirely different things, and the careful operator, on having a case presented for his consideration, will, as a fundamental rule, ascertain which he has to deal with, for with the primary treatment rests in a great measure the final success of the operation. If the pulp is exposed by carelessness in excavating, in a tooth that has never given any trouble to the patient beyond mere sensitiveness, we have a very simple diagnosis. From the description we have had of the pulp, we know that the mere wounding of a vein is exposure and must be treated as such. If the patient presents a tooth, in the cavity of which, on clearing away the debris, we can distinctly see the pulsation of the arteries, we have a different condition of things, with an equally simple diagnosis. Then we have cases of semi-exposed pulps, that is with only the slightest possible covering of softened dentine, that separates this mass of blood vessels and nerves from the air. These come under the head of exposed pulps, and of this condition we meet more than of any other, the treatment of which are as important and require as much skill as any. Now, we hold that the dental pulp is subject to the same law of health and disease that governs the flesh only to a certain degree, and that only so far as it harmonizes with its more delicate and sensitive nature. Because a wound in the arm or any other portion of the system heals by first intention, it does not necessarily follow that a wound in the dental pulp will do the same. A wounded vein of the pulp will close its walls the same as any other vein in the system, and if protected from irritating agents, will heal as perfectly; but if one of the nerves of the pulp is severed, or an artery ruptured, we very soon comprehend the distinction, by the result. A pulp that has once been thoroughly congested will surely die, and although we may treat it in this condition it will be of little avail as regards its salva-