

# The Canadian Practitioner and Review.

---

Vol. XXIII.

TORONTO, MAY, 1908.

No. 5

---

## Original Communications.

---

### ORTHODONTIA.\*

BY J. A. C. HOGGAN, D.D.S.

---

Orthodontia received little attention until within the last half century, the most interest having been awakened in the last twenty, and the greatest advance made in the last six years. The progress made has been in the broader and more detailed study of the science. Previously it was the custom to rest the welfare of each case upon the inventive genius of the dentist in charge. To-day cases are classified in groups. We may get appliances to correspond to each class, and we rely upon these appliances only as an assistance to Nature. We study the mouth, jaws, teeth, lips, nose, etc., to find out Nature's plan, and only with a thorough knowledge of embryology, histology and comparative anatomy can we arrive at a conclusion.

Orthodontia is based on the normal occlusion of the teeth. Occlusion is the locking of the teeth together and their relation when the jaws are closed. The Ideal of Orthodontia is Art, the perfection of Art is Harmony, and the result of Harmony is beauty.

When the forces which govern occlusion are perverted we call it malocclusion; perversion of the normal. Malocclusion is found in all races and even occasionally in the lower animals. It is very common and is becoming more common. The thoughtful man is asking: Why are there so many mutilated, irregular, twisted, deformed and positively ugly mouths among the people we

---

\*Read before the Hamilton Medical Society, April 1st, 1908.