

is concerned. As to him the case is very different. No amount of manual skill alone can equip him to work intelligently, or to the best results, without anatomical, pathological, and therapeutical knowledge. To many it seems that the filling of a tooth is a purely mechanical operation, well performed if the cavity is "plugged" firmly and smoothly, and if no immediate pain results; that an extraction is a simple act, scarce worthy to be called an operation; and that the insertion of artificial teeth or dentures is a mere bit of handiwork entirely successful if mechanically accurate. Let a few examples suffice to illustrate how fallacious is this popular idea.

There came to a dentist of New York, who, having been first graduated as a physician, took up dentistry as a specialty, a patient seeking immediate relief from suffering due to the condition of his tongue, which a surgeon had diagnosed as cancerous growth necessitating amputation. The dentist became satisfied that the condition was owing solely to traumatic lesions due to rough edges of the teeth. These latter he filed down, and applied slight local treatment to the inflamed organ. The patient was relieved, and by further treatment complete restoration of normal conditions resulted.

A lady was sent from a Southern state to a leading surgeon of the same city with a request that he would operate to excise cancerous growth upon the tongue. He took the patient to a dentist, had certain teeth removed, and after local treatment sent her home entirely relieved, without the necessity of any operation.

A neurologist sent to a dentist a patient who had for years suffered with acute facial neuralgia, to relieve which anodynes had been freely prescribed. An examination disclosed that the gums had grown over roots of a tooth that had been broken in the past by a clumsy effort at extraction. The local conditions being properly attended to, the pains no longer occurred, but the opium habit contracted under treatment remained.

When the Dental Act of France was debated prior to its passage, the harm done by mere mechanics in fitting artificial plates over diseased surfaces was fully brought out. A distinguished aurist of New York, now deceased, was wont to say that a large part of the diseases of the ear that he was called upon to relieve grew out of unwise dentistry; and Dr. Garretson, who, beginning his medical career as a dentist, ended it as a distinguished oral surgeon, said as long ago as 1860, before the Pennsylvania Association of Dental Surgeons: "When, years back, before this association, I have spoken of anemia, chlorosis, and kindred conditions as the source of dental caries, I have been met with rebuke for travelling outside my profession. Let me now, gentlemen, add my mite to the experience of to night, by affirming that I believe