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ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

EDITORIAL NOTES ON PRACTICAL SUBJECTS.

A FEW MORE HINTS ON EXTRACTING.

BY W. G. BEERS, MONTREAL.

We should have said in the January number, that we are particular in lancing the gum around both upper and lower wisdom teeth, especially at the farthest extremity, near the tuberosity of the palate bones. We will endeavor to give reasons for this preliminary, and a few final hints on extracting.

What is the danger of not severing the connection of the gum with the wisdom teeth? When the teeth are remarkably small, as wisdom teeth sometimes are, or when the gum has receded from the necks to a considerable extent, no danger may be apprehended, as in both cases, the teeth have but little hold in the jaw; but when they are of the ordinary size, and firm in their sockets there is danger of tearing away much of the adjacent membrane, and especially, a part of the duplicature of the mucous membrane at the posterior edge of the palate bones. At the wisdom teeth, the alveolar processes terminate, and the gums are continuous with fleshy folds of muscle and mucous membrane. The liability to fracture of the process or maxillary is lessened at this point, owing to the smallness of the dens sapientiae roots and the thickness of the bone; but when we consider the usually firm attachment of the gums to the periosteum of the