

OSSIFICATION OF THE DENTAL PULP.

When ossification of the pulp takes place, it is but fair to infer that it follows upon the irritation which nature establishes to protect the highly organized and sensitive pulp from exposure; and when ossification begins, the process is usually continued till the whole pulp is converted into a substance analagous in its arrangements and constituents to cementum. This change takes place when the pulp is subjected to a moderate amount of irritation and vascular action, but in cases where inflammation succeeds irritation a different result is produced.

Sometimes the irritation which causes ossification comes from causes which may be said to be strictly constitutional; but, as a large majority of cases it is caused by extremes of heat and cold, transmitted through a filling, or through a layer of dentine. While the process of ossification is going on, the patient feels a numbness, and pains more or less severe, lasting for a moment, but as it causes little annoyance, but little notice is taken of it.

When the process of ossification is complete, the inner walls and the crown of the tooth have lost all their vitality, yet, unlike necrosis—as we stated in our last number—there is no appearance of death or decay in the tooth structure; as the central cavity being filled with semi-translucent osteo-dentine, the crowns keep the natural color. Of course, we have no cause to remove a tooth because of ossification, if no other symptoms present themselves. Ossified teeth are useful for mastication and ornament a score of years after the process is complete.—*Dental Office and Laboratory.*

Be patient with your patients. Teach them that dentists are not made by inspiration; that a dentist—to be worthy of the name—does not become so in a day; that we are professional men; not plasterer's or stone masons; that there is the same difference between the *true* dentist and the charlatan, that exists between the dauber who paints a sigh and the master who brings to his studio the knowledge gained by a life time of study of anatomy, coloring etc. Respect yourself, and let the quack have his day. *His* sunset will come at 9 o'clock A. M. Never degrade yourself by doing poor work for a poor price. Merit will, sooner or later, bring its reward, in the answer of a good conscience and "greenbacks."—*Dental Office and Laboratory.*