

THE CANADIAN PRACTITIONER

EDITOR:

ADAM H. WRIGHT, B.A., M.D. Tor.

ASSOCIATE EDITORS:

JAMES F. W. ROSS, M.D. Tor.

JOHN CAVEN, B.A., M.D. Tor.

EDMUND E. KING, M.D. Tor.

PUBLISHERS:

THE J. E. BRYANT COMPANY (Limited), 58 BAY STREET.

VOL. XVIII.]

MAY, 1893.

[No. 5.

Original Communications.

ALVEOLAR ABSCESS.*

BY E. HERBERT ADAMS, M.D., D.D.S.

ALVEOLAR abscess is a term applied to any abscess having its origin in the alveolar process of either of the maxillæ. It is generally due to a pericementitis occurring at the apex of the root of the tooth, and caused by the death of the dental pulp. The first pus is pent up in the apical space by bony walls, and the pressure being very great results in the rapid destruction of the surrounding osseous tissue. The pus burrows where there is least resistance, and on account of the cancellous nature of the bone surrounding the root, and the denser nature of the bone nearer the surface, a larger pus cavity is formed.

The pericemental membrane surrounding the apex of the tooth is even yet not perhaps destroyed; but its fibres become elongated and their meshes filled with pus; the swollen tissue forming the shreddy bag-like mass so often seen attached to the end of a root of an abscessed tooth after extraction.

Should the outer lamina of bone be perforated, the pus has then ready

*Read before the Toronto Medical Society.