

Correspondence.

A FATAL CASE OF SEPTICEMIA.

To the Editor of DOMINION DENTAL JOURNAL :

SIR,—Replying to yours re death of Thos. Scott in Galt Hospital, may say that immediately upon receipt I interviewed the medical doctor (Dr. Wardlaw) in attendance, and obtained the following information, which I will give you in his own words :

Patient, Thos. Scott, of near Branchton, farm laborer, aged 39, called for treatment on Thursday p.m. Condition—Found right sub-max. gland and cellular tissue swollen from ear to under the neck, around post-median line ; left gland slightly enlarged ; tongue pushed up and lower jaw almost immovable ; articulation so indistinct that little could be understood. Temperature, $102\frac{1}{2}$; could hardly breathe ; had eaten nothing since Tuesday previous ; fascia all swollen and infiltrated with pus. Fed him by nutrient enemata ; made incision on median line, also on the side of jaw ; slight discharge ; suffering then from "Ludwig angina." Could not get into the mouth to treat, but found an abscessed root. During Thursday night it broke in the mouth, and being unable to spit, part of the discharge ran into his stomach, and had a tendency to strangle him. On Friday a.m., unable to speak or swallow ; lymphatics over chest all streaked with red ; dulness over left lung ; teeth set and could not cough. Traumatic pneumonia apparent. Delirious at 2.15 p.m., Friday ; then gradually sank, and died in half an hour from inanition, the result of septicemia.

History of the case—Some time ago his tooth became sore and he was advised by either a medical doctor or a dentist (the former, I think) not to have it touched while sore. While attending Toronto Exhibition he caught cold, and felt somewhat indisposed until Tuesday preceding his death, when his face began to swell rapidly and the soreness in the jaw to increase. On Thursday following he called upon Dr. Wardlaw, as previously stated.

I am of the opinion that he was never seen by a dentist, either before or after death, and that the medical advice was given by a doctor in the village near his home.

I am, very truly,

SYLVESTER MOYER.

Galt, Ont.