

the elongation of the jaw has given sufficient room. These first molars are so frequently mistaken for a portion of the temporary set, and such unhappy consequences sometimes result from this error, that the attention of parents should be particularly directed to this point. These teeth are sometimes permitted to go to decay from want of care, and under the impression that they are the temporary teeth. Sometimes they are extracted for some slight cause, when the whole arch of the jaw becomes imperfectly developed, and the most painful and tedious cases of irregularity are often the result. These teeth are the pioneers and guides of the new set; they stand as landmarks in the jaw, and their extraction or loss by any means may be compared to the capture of the outlying pickets of a sleeping army, in disastrous consequences.

The first molars should be preserved if possible. There is no estimating the value of a tooth. The illustrious Don Quixote had a very good idea of it when (after one of his hard-fought battles, in which he lost a number of them) he says to Sancho Panza, that he had rather they had torn off an arm, provided it was not the sword arm. He then adds:—"For thou must know, Sancho, that a mouth without teeth is like a mill without a stone; and that a diamond is not so precious as a tooth." However, that was long before the days of rubber plates; he might possibly change his opinion were he living now.

Another point worth notice: These teeth—that is, the first molars—seem to be placed in the exact position where they are most needed, as the temporary teeth are falling out and the office of mastication must be performed somehow, and falls naturally upon these powerful grinders so admirably placed to perform their allotted labor.

Sometime between the ages of six and nine years, according to the health and strength of the child, and after cutting of the first permanent molars, the lower central incisors make their appearance. Next come the upper central incisors; then the lower lateral incisors, and next the upper laterals. This is the usual order, although it sometimes varies. Nature now takes a short period of repose, lasting some two or three years.

Between the ninth and fourteenth years the bicuspid and canine teeth make their appearance, generally in the order mentioned. Finally appear the second molars, soon after the canines, or at about the age of fourteen, and then the set is complete, with the exception of the wisdom teeth, which are cut anywhere from eighteen to sixty