

necessary, and disinfected, it is immaterial how this is done, so long as it is done thoroughly. I use a 20 per cent. sublimate solution, and have good results with it. It is now filled with antiseptic made into a stiff paste with concentrated carbolic acid, care being taken to fill thoroughly to the apex, then fill the cavity with any desired filling material. *Badly decomposed pulps* of long standing are treated in a similar manner to the above. Care must be taken in removing the *debris* not to force any of the septic matter through the apex. It is well to use antiseptics before attempting to remove all *debris*. Strong disinfectants should be used in these canals, but in other respects the treatment, etc., is the same as the foregoing. Fistulous openings of the gums heal of their own accord. In many cases it is not possible to remove all the nerve fibres from the canal; these small portions at the apex of the root may safely remain, as they will create no disturbance, provided all parts have been thoroughly disinfected. Of course, the medicinal properties of antiseptic have their limits, and it will be impossible with it to effect a cure of periostitis with all its possible complications. Nevertheless both preparations may be considered acquisitions, and doubtless will find adherents. A trial will prove the truth of the assertion.—(7, *Poulson's Bericht über Zahnheilkunde, etc.*

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THE SIGNIFICANCE OF PALATAL DEFORMITIES IN IDIOTS.—“Because departures from the normal are found physically, mentally and morally in defective classes, therefore scientific investigators have assumed that any one of these departures, occurring in the average individual, gives rise to the suspicion that the process of deterioration is already under way in him.” With this admirable thesis, W. Channing (*Journal of Mental Science*, Jan., 1897, p. 72), the author, seeks for some sound deductions on the subject of the stigmata of palatal deformities among the insane. At the outset he takes issue with those who would seek to lay so much stress upon the peculiar shape of the palate as one of the most characteristic and significant of the stigmata of degeneration. The methods of inspection are commented upon and the necessity for accurate measurement and cast-taking insisted upon, if trustworthy results are to be gained. Talbot's classification is followed and the author investigated some one thousand feeble-minded patients, taking casts of all. He had, moreover, 500 casts from average American school children. His