

are all aware that in moving a tooth in the mouth a certain amount of looseness and tenderness is the invariable result, but this case is an exception. The tooth has indeed been moved back, but in moving it has brought the anterior part of the jaw with it. Thus, what at first I was inclined to consider a great difficulty, has turned out a sort of negative evil, as the tooth has acted as a kind of lever in drawing inwards the prominent alveolar process of the anterior part of the superior maxillary which was at first so unsightly.

To the best of my recollection, this is the first case reported of so singular a complication of irregularity, for though we have frequently heard of and occasionally seen cases in which teeth have been knocked out or drawn from their sockets, and being afterwards replaced, have become tolerably firm, I do not remember having heard of any case in which the displaced and restored organ became, as has the one in question, the most firmly seated tooth in the head, and decidedly as healthy in every way as any of the others. It would be out of place here, and foreign to the subject of this paper to express any opinion on the subject of the physiological forces employed by nature in the reinstating of this tooth so firmly in its place, its connection with the system evidently as perfect as ever; its unchanged color and sensitiveness on the application of extreme cold, evincing the perfect preservation of its pulp, and consequently the reunion of the nerve filament at the apex of its root with that in the base of its socket; and the very dense formation of ossific matter which must have taken place around the root. All these phenomena could be made the base of many interesting discussions, but as I have already occupied too much time in introducing this matter here we will return to the proper subject.

The first effect of pressure applied to a tooth for a given time, is to produce an enlargement of its socket, or in other words the socket being composed of porous and slightly elastic bone, the traction exerted by the appliance brought to bear on the irregular tooth causes the socket to stretch or widen in the direction of the applied force. This is the first or mechanical effect. Soon after, however, another and very beautiful physiological process is brought into operation, namely, absorption. It is an established fact that gentle pressure steadily maintained for a given time on bone will produce gradual absorption of the part so pressed against. It is this process of absorption of which we avail ourselves in the treatment of irregularity, and were it not for this stimulated action of the absorbents in removing