

model has come backward into the place where the molar was taken out of is, that the molar was abscessed, and the erupting tooth moved into the crypt thus formed. The molar was probably taken out at the age of seven or eight years, or perhaps a little earlier. That brings up the question he makes at this point: "This leads me to inquire are there not times when it is judicious and even necessary to extract the deciduous teeth in order that the eruption of the permanent ones may not be retarded or diverted by non-absorption of the roots of the former?" It is just a question which everyone will have to decide for himself, when there is a tooth developing in the jaw. By the use of the X-rays, it is possible now to locate a tooth, and then by its use we would not have any doubt about extraction. If we were sure there was a tooth there, and its eruption was interfered with by the presence of a deciduous tooth, we should extract the deciduous tooth. I have known of some cases where deciduous teeth have been extracted and bicuspid's coming down have filled all the space between the molar and lateral incisor. There is another cast showing two cuspid's, with two incisors and two deciduous cuspid's between them. It looks to me as though there had been a crowding of these lateral incisors out of proper line and extraction had been resorted to. Some adult members of my own family have deciduous teeth in place. A deciduous cuspid, lateral incisor and molar were present in one mouth. I extracted the molar with the hope a bicuspid was beneath it; but, unfortunately there was not. In another case I can see no evidence of a tooth coming through. Many of these cases, I think, are hereditary; or it may be something has happened to the germs of the permanent teeth; perhaps they are mummified. The last class of cases referred to is that where deciduous teeth remain in the mouth. I think we all have to use our judgment in cases of that kind.

Q.—How is the lower jaw in that case?

Dr. BAGNALL—I don't think the laterals were ever there.

Q.—Are the lower incisors behind the upper?

A.—They were regular.

On this question of deciduous teeth, I don't think there is much information to be gleaned from our text books, or any published articles. I take pains when away at different times to bring up questions before a man whom I think has some special knowledge, or is a shining light in that particular line of work, and had occasion at one time to speak to a dentist in Boston about this matter. He said, invariably when finding a cavity between two deciduous teeth he takes his engine, with a corundum point and water to keep it cool, and trims the deciduous teeth down to make them the shape of a dog's tooth; trims down until it comes close to the gum, leaving the tooth so that there is nothing but the tiniest point at the gum. He claims there is no room for the food to lodge, it keeps the jaw as it ought to be and saves untold misery in the end. It