

resulted the exploded idea of "internal decay." It may be here remarked that decay from lateral pressure is frequently caused by mismanagement, and this observation can be more particularly applied to that class of society for whom too much rather than too little has been attempted by the dental surgeon. As irregularities of the teeth lead to this decay, they in turn being caused by the too premature extraction of the temporary organs of childhood, and are consequently more met with in high life than in low. It is equally common to strong teeth and to weak, to those of persons who enjoy the best of health and those who do not, and if they were capable of being kept *perfectly* clean, I have no doubt but disease would be imperceptible from this cause; fortunately it can be remedied as formerly stated, if brought into our hands when necessity or rather prudence compels the sufferer to apply to our ranks for relief. Decay from irregularity of the teeth can be accounted for from the same causes as heretofore alluded to in lateral pressure, the teeth from want of space being pushed into abnormal positions tending to form the works of destruction already pointed out. I find from the length of this article, I will be obliged to curtail as much as possible the remarks to be made on cleanliness and filling; but before coming to this part of my subject, I would state that the shedding or temporary teeth decay from the causes stated as much if not more than even the permanent, as less care is devoted to the organs in childhood than in adult life.

The great preventive means of decay is *cleanliness* on the part of the patient, who should make use of some powder in common with the brush which should be resorted to after every meal. Many persons use the brush vigorously but fruitlessly, and it will generally be found in such cases that it is merely passed round the arch across the teeth, consequently the fibres are thus pressed down against the organs, passing over the exact spots most needed to be cleansed, whereas if an up and down movement was brought into action the fibres would necessarily pass *between* the teeth, clearing out everything foreign that may have settled there. Again, the large majority of persons labor under the idea that it is merely to the anterior surfaces of the teeth it should be applied; and they therefore devote much time to the fore part of the mouth, leaving the interior and rear portions to look after themselves, and be satisfied in lieu with the motions of the tongue. As a result of this very unreasonable treatment, the most useful organs of mastication are sacrificed. The brush should be used thoroughly, be manipulated in all directions,