

ethyl, Dr. Reeve thinks it is a dangerous agent, on account of its bad record, and its marked perturbative action on the heart. He does not know of such objections to the use of nitrous oxide as will justify dentists in resorting to stronger anaesthetics. The objections adduced, he says, "seem but trivial when the tremendous responsibility is considered which the dentist takes upon himself when he proceeds to administer chloroform or ether, when the awful calamity of a sudden death from these agents comes to mind."

It may be said, finally, that when a dentist administers chloroform for the purpose of pulling a tooth, he incurs a responsibility that he has no right to incur. *Journal of the American Medical Association, Chicago.*

A CASE OF DENTAL FISTULA OPENING ON THE MAMMARY GLAND. — The following case, reported by Dr. Nicolai, of Stuttgart, Germany, in the *Deutsche Monatsschrift für Zahnheilkunde* for December, 1888, illustrates forcibly the importance attaching to the necessity of placing the mouth at all hazards in a perfectly physiological condition.

Dr. Nicolai says: A lady, 32 years of age, who has not had her teeth examined for four years, presented herself to me to have her teeth placed in good condition. This necessitated cleaning the teeth, the removal of salivary calculus, and the introduction of eleven gold, six amalgam and two cement fillings.

On the completion of these operations, the mouth was in a normal healthy condition, with the exception of the lower left first molar, of which nothing but the roots were left; these were broken, and underneath the margin of the gum. They were filled with the ichorous products of decomposition, and their margins were overhung with the inflamed, tumefied gum. This condition of affairs has prevented the lady from masticating her food on this side for some time, and as a natural result the right side alone was used. After having performed all the necessary operations in her mouth, I endeavoured, by naming all the disadvantages arising from the presence of the roots, to convince her of the necessity of removing them. I told her that the left side of her mouth was completely useless, that these roots have caused diseases of the two adjoining teeth of the same jaw, and of the articulating tooth of the upper jaw; that a tendency to the recurrence of caries still existed, that inflammation of the gums would always exist and that the breath will be always tainted. All these efforts were futile and were met with the single statement that, while the roots were not painful, she would not submit to their removal. To diminish the jeopardy of my work to the minimum, I concluded to place the roots in as good a condition as I could and, if possible, make them serviceable