

# Dominion Dental Journal

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## DENTAL AND MEDICAL INFECTION.

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In the last July number of the *Montreal Medical Journal* an article appeared with the rather sensational heading, "Infection in the Dentist's Chair," descriptive of the case of a housemaid, who was admitted to the General Hospital a month after she had three teeth extracted. She complained of "sore throat and sore gums, and tender, painful teeth," not a very rare experience, under the circumstances. A week after she was admitted she died. The case was reported—as the result of the autopsy—as one of septic infection, and without actually knowing anything whatever of the facts as to the condition of the instrument used by the dentist, and without investigating the circumstances preceding the girl's entrance to the hospital, the startling accusation was made that the infection was caused "in the dentist's chair." A reply to the article was sent to the editor, but never reached him.

Reasoning from analogy, the author of the reply endeavored to show that the possibility of infection in the dentist's chair, or from the dentist, was very much less than from the general physician, especially if he practised surgery, and from general hospitals, and an article by Professor Fournier, of Paris, in a recent medical journal so well expresses and exposes this position that we take the liberty of making extensive quotations. It is an undeniable fact