
port, this should make us more appreciative of their value, and careful in their treatment. You will receive the thanks of your patients for freeing them from the dread and pain of having roots extracted, and with liberal remuneration for your services; you will also find that the use of gas, chloroform, or any other anæsthetic, will be but seldom needed, lessening in a great degree the accidents that too often take place by their use.

As a rule roots should not be extracted, but all rules have their exceptions; these are, first, when the patient is young, and the teeth over-crowded, then the judicious extraction of roots relieves the over-crowded arch; second, when roots have lost their living attachment and are only held by soft parts; third, when roots are split or divided beyond the alveolar border; fourth, roots that have their canal so enlarged, and the walls so thin that at points there are openings in the socket; fifth, enlargement of the roots, or nodular formation; these are the principal causes for extraction of roots. 'Apart from the first two mentioned,—that is the over-crowded teeth in the young, and the loss of bony structure in the aged, both are of rare occurrence. It is evident then that the most frequent cause of pain from roots is inflammation of the periosteum, caused by the decomposition of matter in the nerve canal, generally resulting in alveolar abscess. How fortunate that the most frequent cause of trouble should be the easiest to control. The extraction of roots, like the extraction of teeth with dead pulps, should be considered as something of the past and be forever buried in oblivion.

CAN PULPS OF TEETH BE SAVED?

BY FOSTER ELWELL, L.D.S.

The above query might be enlarged to the extent of an elaborate essay, but my object is not to elaborate, but to be pointed. Following the question comes the replies—dependent upon the condition of the pulp, the constitutional character of the patient, the method of procedure. I may dispose of these and my own experience by simply saying that I attempt the salvation of every pulp which has never given more than a recent temporary pain; but that while trying to save about forty per cent. of others, I never hope for success in more than ten per cent. of