

punctures the pulp-chamber, it will be felt to stick, and by this he will know that the object is accomplished. Frequently, moreover, on enquiry it will be found that the patient has tasted the peculiarly unpleasant gas thus let out into the mouth. As a rule the symptoms rapidly subside after the gas has escaped. Complete restoration may be facilitated by placing a guard of gutta-percha on the teeth of the opposite side of the head, to prevent closure of the jaws upon the affected tooth, and so shield it from irritation of that sort; also, by carefully drying the gums, and then painting the part with the official Tincture of Iodine, or the mixture given below.* When periodontitis supervenes on devitalization and thorough extirpation, palliative treatment is indicated, free lancing of the gums, copious bleeding, after which cold applications, without and within the mouth, liberal use of Iodine, or the Iodine and Aconite, which last is certainly an excellent remedy. Again, it has been suggested that *Mercurius Vivus*, the third decimal trituration, given in small doses two or three times a day is a specific in such case. This is also a good medicine, but scarcely infallible. Indeed it is more than doubtful if anything is absolutely certain. The wise practitioner, however, is ever ready to employ any means which the peculiarities of the case, or the experience of his fellows, may suggest; and in this, as in all other affections, will not be bound by prejudice simply to follow a beaten track, but be ready on occasion to exercise his ingenuity to discover the best treatment for each case as it presents, always bearing in mind the intimate relation that exists between this disorder and nearly every phase of systemic trouble.

Perhaps one of the greatest evils associated with this form of dental disease is the fact that patients do not generally recognize the true cause of their trouble. Neuralgia, or *tic*, as they call it in some places, seems to be a sort of universal scapegoat, on whose back are laid all kinds of dental difficulties, and to get rid of which the patients will swallow any amount of physic before they wake up to realize wherein the mischief truly consists, and then too often the disease has passed into the suppurative stage. The last hint as to the treatment of periodontitis, therefore, is never to fail in warning a patient of the possible result in every case, where there appears any reason to suppose that sooner or later the disorder may appear.

* Dr. Frank Abbott of New York, announced in the "Dental Cosmos" of October, 1868, that he had obtained very satisfactory results from the use of Official Tincture of Iodine, Tincture of Aconite root, equal parts, painted on the gum around the affected tooth once in twenty-four hours, till the inflammation subsided.