

# Dominion Dental Journal

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## CATAPHORESIS—A WARNING.

The experience of a thousand wise predecessors will not divert folly. We must all get experience for ourselves, and no doubt it is a providential dispensation. But there is no excuse for that presumption which dogmatically arrogates an almost divine right of judgment; which, in the infancy of a new idea, or a novel experience, insists that it has encompassed within its opinion, every possibility of fact or failure.

The cataphoresis fad is not altogether new. It is not one of those fads which are without any merits. It has been successfully applied in clinics—though the value and permanency of results are not fully seen in clinics. It is a fad which requires some special predilection and experience in a direction wherein few dentists technically excel. It is not a thing to be despised or condemned because of its failures, but rather a thing where failures should inspire to conquest. Some of its advocates have been, perhaps, too assertive in their declarations that they have seen no harm in it; that they have done no harm with it. It is generally impossible to know at once whether or not mischief has been done. But recently facts are coming forth to prove that toxic effects of cocaine upon the pulp have extended beyond that tissue to a dangerous condition.

Dr. M. W. Foster, of Baltimore, reported a case in the *Cosmos*, where a pellet of cotton, saturated with a 30 per cent. solution of cocaine hydrochlorate was placed in the cavity of a tooth, and the usual cataphoric current applied. The dose was repeated. About ten minutes from the last application the patient complained that the fingers of the left hand felt as if they were asleep. The symptoms became so alarming that brandy was hypodermically injected and friction applied; the patient "commenced a peculiar howling