

most eminent students of St. Louis to perform the operation, he, too, after examination, advised me not to have it taken out.

When he learned that I was nearly fifty years old, he told me that I would have to suffer only two or three days more and the nerve would die of its suffering, my pain would entirely cease, and I would have my tooth preserved intact. The discovery of the death of tooth-nerves with advancing age is only two or three years old, but in that time millions of teeth have been saved. Formerly when a man with the toothache went to the dentist's office it meant either that the tooth was unceremoniously jerked out root and branch, or the sufferer was subjected to a long and painful operation of plugging. The better class of dentists have ceased nearly entirely to pull the teeth of men and women nearing their climacteric, as they know that the aches are but the last expiring efforts of the nerves to perform their functions. A curious fact in connection with this kind of toothache is that cold water, instead of intensifying the pain as it usually does, actually soothes it. Another important advance in dentistry is the method of completely sawing a tooth in two and joining the pieces together with a small gold screw. When a decayed speck or streak makes its appearance in a molar now the dentist who knows his business will neither pull the tooth out and substitute for it one of its own make nor fill the hollow with gold to preserve it, but he artfully saws the top of the tooth off close to the gums, and after thoroughly scraping and cleansing the decaying part, welds the two pieces together as firm as before the operation was done."

The above is forwarded by Dr. Wm. G. Ashton, of Milbank, S.D., and with it he sends a letter in which he says: "An editorial friend of mine seemed inclined to doubt my knowledge of recent improvements in my profession because I labeled the enclosed article 'nonsense.' Possibly we are to blame, inasmuch as very few dentists dare to appear in the columns of a newspaper as educators of the public, but leave that important field to the quacks. I would like to learn the name of that dentist in Boston, and of the eminent student in St. Louis who advocate these ideas. To the dentist, of course, this article appears to be rubbish, but to the public it is quite sensible. Cannot a plan be devised whereby the ignorant may be taught enough so that they may be able to discriminate between capable dentists and quacks? This question has been too long ignored by our profession; it should be seriously considered at our State and National meetings."—*Editorial in Items of Interest.*