

cult operations of filling. Without these buccal fluids, food would not digest; to stimulate them to healthy action, the food must be well masticated. Dyspepsia originating in absence of the teeth, is then easily understood, and one important adjunct to its cure, viz., artificial substitutes, clearly perceived.

Another cause of dyspepsia may be traced to the presence in the mouth of diseased and dead teeth and roots, connected possibly with inflammation of the gums, abscesses, and a chemical change in the salivary fluids. It is easy to understand how and why diseased teeth and roots, and the presence of morbid matter, vitiate the secretions, and how they interfere with mastication. Bad breath is produced; every inhalation affects the sensible tissues of the lungs; every mouthful of food is impregnated with the morbid matter, carried to the stomach, and taken up by the nutritive vessels. In the course of time the particular teeth are too painful to use, and the consequence is that the food is half masticated, and the owner avoids even hygienic precautions. Pain of itself disturbs the digestion; and when we add the vitiation of the secretions, diseases of the teeth and gums, we have a dyspepsia quite as difficult to eradicate, and more painful to bear, than other complications of the disease in which the teeth bear no part.

Cases in practice multiply in the course of years, and every dentist can, doubtless, refer to his own experience and observation. I remember one remarkable case, of a lady who had been treated for dyspepsia for two years by her family physician, with little or no benefit. I had an opportunity of examining her mouth, and found nearly all the bicuspid and molars in both jaws broken off by decay, to the roots. For over two years the crowns had been destroyed, and there were always one or two aching. At the time I saw her mouth, several were ulcerated, and discharged thick viscid matter on pressure. Upon suggesting their extraction to her medical attendant, and venturing to accuse them as the cause of her constant dyspepsia, he advised her to submit to the operation. The following morning he administered chloroform, and the roots were drawn. After recovering from the influence of the anæsthetic, her weak stomach rebelled, and she vomited several large pieces of baked potatoes and meat, not half masticated. The evidence was indisputable. After a few weeks her general health improved, and by aid of artificial teeth she could eat and enjoy her meals, and finally she entirely recovered, and is now perfectly convinced of the origin of