

Suppose a tooth is found with putrescent pulp; clean cavity well from decay, then apply peroxide of hydrogen, injecting it well into canals, then use bichloride of mercury, cleaning canals well. Then dress canals with cotton saturated with oil of cinnamon, iodoform and creosote. Permit this to remain for two or three days, then remove and fill tooth, which can be done in the following way: Place a piece of gelatine in canal of tooth, permitting it to come well up, so as to extend higher than the masticating surface, or it can be made so as to come out from either the buccal, lingual, or labial surface, just as the case may be; then build up filling, allowing it to inclose the gelatine, excepting the end, which must remain uncovered. In a short time the gelatine will dissolve and leave an opening through filling into canals; this will permit an exit for any gas which might accumulate therein, and with little care this opening can always be kept free of any foreign matter, such as food. It is unnecessary to fill canals of deciduous teeth on account of the great absorption of root, and the above treatment will preserve the tooth as long as it is required for use. For all posterior teeth I would use amalgam; for anterior, either zinc compounds or gutta percha. The latter, if properly inserted and surface-finished with chloroform, will form quite a serviceable filling.

In cases where the pulp is devitalized, morphine should be used for so doing, as any arsenical preparation is in danger of absorption by the tissues outside of pulp, on account of the size of apical foramen, which will permit the drug to pass through.

I fully believe, gentlemen, that if more attention were paid to the preservation of the deciduous teeth, we would have better men and women, physically, as they would in their childhood be able to masticate the proper kinds of food. This cannot be when there is nothing to masticate with, and if the proper kind of food can not be received at an early period of life, some member of the body must suffer in consequence. Take the cases of dyspepsia of to-day. What are they mostly caused from? From the digestive organs having been in a weak state, and this, I believe, is all on account of the sacrifice of the deciduous teeth, simply because it is known that the second set are sure to follow.

Let us go forward in the future and educate our patients that those teeth should be preserved, and try our utmost to keep the first teeth until nature has replaced them with stronger ones.

Devitalization of the Dental Pulp and Filling Root Canals.

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Teeth are hard substances projecting from the alimentary canal, situated anterior to the pyloric orifice and are subservient to nutrition.