

sooner than those between which there is space, and it would be difficult to instance a case of "proximal decay" where the teeth do not press severely one against the other. Teeth have sometimes from the size of the maxillary an insufficiency of space, the lateral pressure is consequently increased and becomes injurious, serving to crack the flinty enamel by diminishing the supply of nutritive material to that portion of the tooth, but principally by forming a space or nook for the irremediable lodgement of impurities, as in the case of indentations in the molars, as formerly alluded to. That we can deduce this conclusion, may be proved by the fact that, *crowded teeth* will decay in spite, as it were, of every means of cleanliness, and also that in cases where they are so much crowded as to have some of their members pushed out of the arch, presenting the appearance of supernumerary teeth, these outcasts are very seldom found decayed. All the teeth are liable to decay from this cause, though not in the same degree; the molars and bicuspid being victims as much to this cause as to that of shape, for being of a square compact build, they cannot slip to one side or the other, as in the case of the incisors, whose alveolar processes are more yielding, the latter thus escaping to a great extent from the too affectionate contact of their neighbours. This decay is found very frequently in the incisors of the superior maxillary, forming a cavity well known among the profession as the proximal (or near to), and wherever a cavity of this kind is discovered in an organ, the one in contact will indubitably be found suffering from the same cause. It makes its appearance in the form of a darkening speck at the point where two teeth are in close contact, hence an idea that the decay of one affects the other. This may literally be true, but I am of the opinion that the two organs being situated under similar circumstances are affected at one and the same time, and in the same manner; the speck gradually enlarges, the enamel decomposes from the effect of the impure matter constantly lodged there, and the dentine once reached, if not arrested by dental means, the organ soon disappears by the undermining process, generally preserving its outward appearance to near the last, when by coming in contact with food of a hard nature it, to use a once popular phrase, "can't stand the pressure," and therefore gives way. Nothing can be more deceitful than this species of decay, even more so than that of shape. I have often passed over teeth on an examination, which on closer inspection have turned out to be the most decayed in the arch, and I have no doubt 'tis from this species