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Hæmorrhage, Its Ætiology and Treatment.

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The condition of hæmorrhage is generally described under two heads, viz., that of primary and that of secondary hæmorrhage.

When bleeding takes place from a wound immediately after an operation or injury it is called primary; when it occurs on reaction from shock or other causes within twenty-four hours, or sometimes longer, it is spoken of as secondary hæmorrhage.

The primary is due to the direct injury to the tissues and vessels; the secondary to the increased force of the circulation during the reaction; or, perhaps, the most frequent cause met with in the practice of the dentist is the hæmorrhagic diathesis of the patient.

Under ordinary circumstances the free bleeding of a wound or wounds, after the operation of extraction, need not cause any uneasiness. But should the bleeding continue for a prolonged period, there is danger of exhaustion and syncope, and measures should at once be taken to stop the excessive flow of blood.

The effect upon the constitution, of course, varies according to the amount of blood lost; and is more marked when the blood escapes rapidly than when it flows slowly. When the bleeding is less severe, the face and general surface become blanched and cold, and the lips and mucous membrane pallid, the pulse feeble, fluttering and rapid. These symptoms may end in syncope and convulsions; or the patient may suffer from anæmia or functional dis-