

The Question Drawer.

Address all correspondence connected with this Department to DR. R. E. SPARKS, Kingston, Ont., Can. Matter for publication should be in the hands of the Editor not later than the 10th of each month, and must have the writers' names attached, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

4. Q.—What is the best treatment for perforation of side of root? (1) When first made? (2) When it continually discharges bloody matter into root canal?

(a) 1. I should say the best treatment in such a case is the extraction of the tooth. Sometimes, however, this is a serious matter, and every possible effort must be made to save such a tooth. In answering such a question, however, for publication, I would urge the abandonment of the use of drills in pulp canals, thus avoiding the injury referred to to a very great extent. If a bit of styptic cotton wound upon a small instrument be carried to the injured periosteum, hæmorrhage will cease in a few moments; then, after the parts are as thoroughly cleansed as practicable, a piece of gutta-percha is warmed and carried to the spot, taking care not to force it through the drill-hole into the wound. Upon this cement—oxyphosphate—may be applied; the gum over it should then be painted with equal parts of concentrated Tr. Aconite root and Tr. Iodine, and wait developments. No trouble may follow, but, of course, little hope can be entertained that a traumatically injured periosteum, with the elements of constant irritation always present, will behave itself like a normal or uninjured membrane. Gutta-percha is the more kindly tolerated by the injured parts of any material we have at hand. 2. Should suppuration ensue, and the alveolus become perforated, the rough surface on the root may then be reached and the gutta-percha and root made as smooth as possible, when the parts may again heal over it. My motto has always been, "Prevent rather than cure disease." Consequently, I avoid using drills in pulp canals altogether, except for setting pivot teeth.

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(b) Perforation of side of root means wounding of the pericementum. 1. Syringe with peroxide of hydrogen solution, dry; pack with Dr. Levers' "Quickcure," the consistency of which retains the dressing. 2. Repeat this dressing. It can be used freely in wounds of any character. If possible, leave a bit of asbestos paper over the perforation. B., Montreal.

(c) 1. Use the gutta-percha base plate or white sheet gutta-percha made warm, and as small as possible to cover opening and lie over the sound dentine; dry the root, dip gutta-percha in oil