

regulating by myself and others, where these teeth have been sacrificed and where not, I am strongly convinced that there is an injudicious and wholly unnecessary sacrifice of good teeth here. I shall have to admit that once in a while a case is presented where extraction is advisable, but this is the exception, while too many make it the rule.

It is the shortest way out of a difficulty, the easiest way to settle the question. No account of the future years of lost usefulness, no consideration of facial expression, of the possibility of a contraction of the maxillary, or of a deviation from the plane of the grinding surface of the future arrivals enters into the consideration. It is simply expedient to extract and that ends it for the time being. No ghosts of the slaughtered innocents are likely to arise to trouble the conscience or rob us of innocent repose. Notwithstanding all this the principle is wrong. Conceived in ignorance and born in iniquity, it is practised too much and ought to be discontinued. Nature never provided a more fitting object for man's good, at a more opportune time, in a better place, than this same tooth, and am I, the learned and intelligent fellow-being who, by choice in a scientific specialty, is referred to by reason of my standing and experience, justified when I say I can do nothing but extract? I think not. Or does it justify me when I say, "Oh, yes, I might perhaps do something for you. I might save the tooth for a few years, but ultimately you may lose it. You had better lose it now and later on you won't miss it much." This looks like prostitution to me, and I prefer to save the semblance of a sixth year molar, at all events for a few years, until nature provides another to take its place to carry on the great work for which they are so vitally essential, which you all very well understand, and so much longer as skill and modern advanced dentistry may enable me to.

Use your skill and resources on these teeth without regard to remuneration or desire of the patient. It does not excuse you to say that it is ulcerated or the nerve is dead, or that the patient is poor, or ignorant, or unappreciative. Save the tooth and put it down to charity, which may cover a multitude of sins otherwise laid up against you. As far as individual cases of extracting are concerned, as they are presented to the dentist for relief from present pain, and where the denture is not the immediate question.