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Original Communications

DECROWNING TEETH AND IMMEDIATE EXTIRPATION OF PULP.

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I remember reading a few years ago an article upon crown and bridge-work in which the essayist, describing the preparation of abutments, said that some recommended the decrowning and immediate extirpation of the nerve by punching it out with a wooden plug. He, however, advised anyone attempting the operation to perform it upon a weak female, or to be sure he, the operator, was in a good physical condition. He evidently wished to convey the idea that the operation would be so excruciatingly painful that the victim of the outrage would be prepared for fight.

The writer had either never tried the operation or, having tried it, had had an unfavorable case, or for some reason had been unsuccessful.

As this is the operation generally practised for immediate pulp extirpation in case of decrowning, it may be as well to refer to it here; and let me say that while a description of the operation sounds barbarous it is comparatively painless. It is nothing to be compared to the pain of extirpating with a broach a pulp of which a little of the upper end is not fully devitalized. To make the operation successful a few precautions are to be observed. For the information of any who may never have practised the operation it may be well to briefly describe it.