

have given the teeth this property, but the Dentist not taking this into consideration, proceeded at once to extract the temporary lateral incisors. The consequence is, that the front teeth have come so far quite straight, but have grown hard or close upon the temporary canines, and left no space whatever for the permanent lateral incisors. Surely it does not require any very great acumen to discover that it is inconsistent with common sense to force one tooth in the place where another is coming in the regular course of nature; the very act of doing so gives the forthcoming tooth a wrong direction, and this, forsooth, is what is called "regulating children's teeth." I cannot believe that any practitioner can be so egregiously ignorant as to err so palpably; where such an operation is performed, it can only be done from mercenary motives. What the result of this case may be I cannot pretend to say; it would be very injudicious to remove the canines; they are in fact the main support of the form of the maxillary arch, and are not changed until the permanent bicuspidæ have taken the place of the temporary molares.

I could bring forward many such cases, but the foregoing are sufficient to show the egregious absurdity of extracting teeth prematurely. I contend that where nature requires assistance, art should await and watch its progress, and that there is infinitely more mischief done by tampering injudiciously with the mouth than by leaving it alone altogether. In almost every case there will be sufficient time to regulate any derangement after the second dentition is completed.

The subject of my next chapter will be the mechanical principles involved in this empirical practice; but before concluding this, I will give a little advice to persons having the care of children in the nursery: An opinion may with tolerable certainty be arrived at as to the future formation of the mouth and teeth from the following observations at the time the second dentition commences:—

1st—If the jaw be well formed and semi-circular rather than elliptical.

2nd—If the temporary teeth separate from each other, as this indicates a disposition of the jaw to expand.

3rd—If the first permanent grinding teeth appear to be well shaped, and of moderate size (these teeth which are at the extremities of each jaw, are generally cut at the age of from six to eight years).

4th—If there be no considerable enlargement of the gums (always allowing for a necessary fulness for the second teeth then rapidly forming,) this is a never failing proof that the second set is taking up the places of the first.

5th—If the parents and family, especially those whom the children most resemble, have well formed mouths and regular teeth, &c.