

But few of our old style Dentists have the idea, that as they learned the profession years ago, they of course should know all that is worth knowing about it, and the ideas they have are the best; and as *they* are perfectly satisfied with their practice, they never trouble themselves about the new things put forth day after day, until they actually are compelled to.

Now the failures that arise from the capping of the nerves come from carelessness or lack of skill upon the part of the Dentist; of course there are a few cases, when the nerves have become diseased, and then it is better to destroy the nerve if you cannot remove the disease; but the most of the failures are owing to the wounding of the nerve while cleaning the cavities, and not allowing it to heal; or from pressure of the capping upon this sensitive substance. Now, when nature formed the tooth, she formed it with a cavity sufficiently large to admit the nerve without pressure, and when the tooth decays to the nerve, the tooth begins to ache, and the cause is exposure, which can again be checked, by protecting it from the changes of temperature and pressure; but the unskilled Dentist prepares the cavity, and then presses the capping down firmly, making sure that all is solid, he then fills the tooth, and of course the tooth aches, and he says the capping is a failure; but why it is he does not know.

The reason is simply this, the pressure upon the nerve irritates it and causes pain. The capping should never rest heavily upon the nerve; if the operation is properly performed the tooth can be restored to health and usefulness for many years.