

human system about which there is a greater diversity of opinion.— One practitioner of high professional attainments advocating wholesale destruction of all pulps exposed; while his neighbour of apparently equal ability, insists on preserving all alive.

A quoted article in a late number of the "Canada Journal of Dental Science," tells us that the pulp lacks recuperative power, and that death is almost sure to follow inflammation. Such a statement, if true, cannot be productive of benefit, but being as false as it is broad, is decidedly injurious in its tendency, and it is the hope of clearing up a little of the ambiguity surrounding this little organ that has induced the production of this paper, feeling assured that all who enter into the investigation will be well repaid for their labour, and in the end agree with me that the dental pulp does not lack inherent reparative force.

In the first place what is necessary for recuperative power?

To which it may be replied, nerve-force and arterial blood.

Then let us proceed to study its anatomical construction and Physiological conditions, after which we shall be better able to understand its pathological lessons, and have a foundation upon which to base an intelligent, and I hope successful conservative treatment, for the honor of our profession, as well as the benefit of humanity.

Anatomically, the dental pulp is almost entirely composed of nerves and blood vessels occupying that cavity in the tooth which commences at the apex of the root and terminates in the crown; and is consequently surrounded on all sides by a firm wall of tooth substance. For convenience the pulp may be studied, as it is anatomically divided into a body which occupies the chamber in the crown of the tooth, and a pedicle or cord composed of a nerve, artery and vein, extending through the canal from the apical foramen until it becomes blended with the body.

The nerve is a derivation from the fifth pair of cranial nerves, and is probably accompanied by a filament belonging to the Ganglionic nervous system.

The artery is a branchlet from the internal maxillary which is one of the terminal divisions at the bifurcation of the external carotid artery.

The vein returns into the general circulation, the unused materials carried in by the artery.

Now we find that the pulp is made up of nerve and blood vessels: that its sensory nerve is a branch of the fifth pair, the most highly sensitive nerve in the human body, and it is not improbable filaments from the Ganglionic nervous system accompany the sensory nerves from their