

in at these gatherings. In doing so, each will benefit himself as well as others.

IRREGULARITIES OF THE TEETH.

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Read before the Dental Association of the Province of Quebec.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN :

I regret that the essay on Irregularity was not assigned to some one of you better qualified than myself to treat a subject so difficult.

There is, I think, no specialty of our profession which calls forth greater efforts of ingenuity, knowledge of the anatomical arrangement, not only of the teeth themselves but also of the contiguous parts, physiological knowledge, including temperament, the theory of absorption, ossific changes, etc., and a correct idea of expression, than does the treatment of irregularity. There is, also, I may safely say, no department of dentistry which requires more patient, untiring perseverance, not only on the part of the operator but also that of the child—and before undertaking a difficult case it is well to understand thoroughly the disposition of the little patient, and to be tolerably well assured in your own mind that the child is possessed of sufficient determination and perseverance, to patiently aid you through the difficulties to be encountered in the treatment of the case.

In the few remarks which time permits of this evening, I shall confine myself more particularly to the anatomical and physiological changes which occur in altering the position of a tooth. The mechanical treatment of these cases is so varied—almost every fresh one requiring some particular modification to suit its peculiarities, and as we have so many excellent descriptions and plates illustrating the various methods of reducing irregularity, both in our text books and in the several journals devoted to our profession, with which we are all conversant, that it will be unnecessary to occupy your time with what would be merely a recapitulation of what we have already read and studied.

Let us suppose a simple case of irregularity, in which one or both the superior central incisors have taken an abnormal position anteriorly to the other teeth. The first question which would present