

A Case of Interrupted Second Dentition.

By C. W. WELLS, D.D.S., Waterloo, Ont.

About eighteen months ago, a girl fourteen years of age presented herself for treatment. Upon examination, it was found that the right central incisor, right lateral and right cuspid were missing. The remaining permanent teeth of the upper jaw were in a normal position, and the vacant space was more than wide enough to receive the missing teeth. Upon inquiry, I found that when the patient was seven years of age or younger (she had forgotten the exact time), the six anterior deciduous teeth had all been extracted at one time, by a bearded man who was then a student of dentistry, but who has since repented and joined the ranks of the book agents (may the public be thankful). He extracted them "to make room for the new ones," he said. The alveolus, on the right side, was very much thickened, and as there was a hard bony plate under the gum tissue, it was concluded that the missing teeth were imprisoned, and would require surgical assistance to bring them out into position. The alveolus was cut away to a considerable depth, and here the points of the missing teeth were found. Further cutting of the alveolus around the crowns was indulged in, and into the space thus made was inserted a roll of cotton dipped in a 10% solution of carbolic acid. In a week the parts were again opened up and carbolized cotton inserted as before. At the end of the second week it was seen that the teeth had made some progress towards eruption. The case was seen every week, and progress noted, and in about six months these three teeth had fully erupted, but were very irregular. The right central came through inside of its normal position, and presented to the front its disto-approximal surface. The cuspid was twisted and crowded out of the arch by the lateral, which leaned toward the first bicuspid. A large space was thus left between the central and lateral. Platina bands, to which were soldered small gold hooks, were cemented to the teeth to be regulated and to the right first molar. By means of small rubber bands slipped over these hooks, the teeth were gradually moved into proper position. A retaining appliance was worn for several months. This consisted simply of platina bands, cemented to the teeth, a stiff gold wire