

troubles. Many persons have a positive horror of the buzzing sensation of the engine, and it is wilful and unnecessary cruelty to use it where any other means are possible. To accomplish many operations by hand certainly takes more time, and time is money, but reputation is money also, and in the long run the balance will be in favor of the dentist who avoids causing unnecessary pain. In ordinary superficial cavities well shaped and sharp excavators will accomplish the work in very short time, almost painlessly, while a burr used even very carefully is liable to cause some inconvenience. Much of the discomfort attendant upon dental operations is not so much in actual suffering as in the anticipation of it; hence, the dentist should avoid the use of whatever will, by its intricate and formidable appearance, suggest the possibility of pain. The engine is a most formidable looking instrument, and to some patients suggests the horrors of the inquisition, therefore it behoves the dentist to keep the aforesaid formidable instrument as much in the background as possible.

The later models of electro-dental engines, by their compact form and general innocent appearance, are a great improvement in this respect, provided always that the wires are concealed, for few things produce such creepy feelings in the lay mind as the "deadly wire."

In some cases the use of the engine is advisable, and is often in such cases less painful than hand work. For instance, an abscessed tooth containing a filling and extremely sensitive. If the tooth is to be saved it must be opened through the canals, and a hole must be made through the filling to the pulp chamber. To drill by hand would require time and much pressure, while the engine will do the work promptly and with a minimum of pressure. There certainly will be pain more or less intense, but it is the sooner over. In excavating large cavities that are not sensitive, opening pulp-chambers when the nerve is dead, polishing fillings, cleaning teeth and preparing for crown and bridge-work, the engine is in its legitimate sphere, and is of inestimable value to both dentist and patient. It saves time, energy, patience and temper, and renders the dentist's bread and butter a little the less hard earned. To give up the dental engine would be to retrograde a half a century. It is a priceless boon and truly worthy of this age of steam and electricity.