

during the six years previous to its eruption, the pressure must therefore be felt by all other teeth in the arch.

If therefore the deciduous molars, or I will say any of the deciduous teeth in the arch, be extracted before the eruption of the permanent molars, will not the permanent molars come forward more or less and occupy the space intended for the second bicuspid? This being the case, we find the bicuspids, upon eruption, assume an improper position, which was not intended by nature. Now take the deciduous incisors. Extract them before the proper time, which is between the sixth and seventh years. What do we find? Why, in most cases of early extraction, we find the permanent incisors upon eruption have not sufficient room for their accommodation. Now, again, in early extraction of the deciduous molars, we are in great danger of injuring the crown of the permanent bicuspid, as that tooth is found with its crown developed between the roots of the deciduous molar.

This of itself shows that the temporary teeth are intended to remain until the permanent ones are ready to erupt. We find irregularities of the temporary teeth a very rare occurrence. Why will not the permanent ones assume a regular position if they are permitted to follow their predecessors, and the arch at the same time becoming gradually larger for their accommodation?

Does not physiological law teach us that the deciduous teeth should remain until the permanent ones are ready to erupt, so as to subserve the wants of the child until nature has provided it with the permanent set, which are on account of their being stronger than the deciduous, essential to masticate the food, which is beneficial to those who have passed the stage of infancy?

If we deprive the little ones of the instruments which nature has given them for mastication, how are they to derive a benefit from the food which is very essential for them at that period of life?

We have parents presenting their little ones to us day after day, wishing to have their teeth removed. They perhaps do not know the value of the deciduous teeth. It is our duty, as dentists, to implant deeply into the minds of every parent or guardian who bring their children to us, that it is very essential that their first teeth should be preserved until time for the eruption of permanent ones.

We have children presented to us for treatment; say, the deciduous molars are affected by caries so that the pulp is exposed, the tooth having given but little inconvenience to the patient. In this case I would clean the cavity of decay and place over the pulp a solution of gutta percha and chloroform, the latter obtunding the pain, and, as it evaporates, the gutta percha becomes hard and prevents the pulp from any irritation caused from filling material, which in this case would be amalgam, as it is inserted with little inconvenience to the patient.