

of the use of either may in certain instances be determined by the patient. Not that we should in any sense allow patients to dictate to us how we shall operate, but that we may often profitably study their varying susceptibilities to the impressions made upon them by different instruments, and govern our manipulation somewhat thereby.

Much in the way of prejudice may be overcome by the invariable use of keen, sharp instruments and a dexterous, careful method of manipulation. This applies as well to the engine as to hand instruments. The dentist should cultivate the utmost delicacy of touch, so as to impress upon his patient at all times the fact that he is giving the least possible discomfort commensurate with effective work.

The system of technique here suggested is not presented as being applicable to all operators or all patients. It is not even claimed that it is the best system, but merely that it is an attempt to formulate a definite and consecutive method of procedure in the performance of many of our operations, which in the past seem, for the most part, to have been performed without method and without system.