

some small measure of use to our profession ; for if its profligate use, employed to bunco the public, has awakened us, then is it an instrument of good.

An era of quackery and charlatanism has been abroad among us ; ignorance and cupidity, with their train of misapplied energies, have produced results dangerous and often fatal to a public ever ready to try some "new thing." The fatal, to say nothing of harmful results following the injections of various secret preparations for painless operations, compel the conservative mind to hesitate when any new scheme is presented to alleviate human suffering. However, I believe from my own experience, added to the clinical demonstrations of trusted friends, that cataphoresis opens a field wide and useful in dentistry, and absolutely free from the lurking dangers which always accompany the use of unknown and secret preparations.

Let us consider some of the more conspicuous designations for cataphoric treatment in our special field : (1) Its employment in sterilizing medications in roots, etc. (2) Arresting abscesses, incipient or otherwise, by the iodine treatment. (3) For obtunding sensibility previous to the lancing of abscess after pus formation. (4) For the treatment of pyorrhœa alveolaris. (5) For the treatment of acute pericementitis. From my own clinical experience the application of this treatment has a wide, and at present little understood usefulness. (6) For bleaching of discolored teeth. (7) For the obtunding of sensitive dentine preparatory to the insertion of fillings, an application which at once appeals to all practising dentists. (8) For the preparation of teeth and roots for crown adjustment—another wide field of usefulness. (9) For the immediate extirpation of inflamed, congested and diseased pulps. (10) And others without number, according to the development of future experience.

May it not be well here to define cataphoresis? This modern term comes from the two Greek words, "cata" and "phorein"—"cata" with its signification, downward, and "phorein," to bear, to travel. Collectively, then, these two words would mean in general application, "travelling downward." But in its application as we are employing it to-day, why should we say downward and not upward? This may be explained from the fact that the older electricians possessed themselves of the idea that there was a positive potential which was always upward, and a negative which was always downward.

The term "cataphoresis" was used later on to express the more special application of the phenomena to tissue. We may then abruptly define cataphoresis as "flow of fluids from the positive to the negative pole." If this be true you will readily agree with me that if these fluids should contain elements in solution which