

other stimulant and antiseptic from which very satisfactory results are often obtained, is found in capsicum and myrrh (*the tinctura capsici et myrrhae of the Pharmacopœia*). When diluted with water the proper strength is expressed by a bluish white color.

Necrosis is a general term for a dead bone in any part of the body, but when we wish to particularize we have to use qualifying terms such as dental necrosis, mercurial necrosis, syphilitic necrosis, alveolar necrosis, necrosis from injuries, phosphor necrosis, etc. Dental necrosis is the one with which dentists most generally have to deal. As long as a tooth continues to receive nutriment from its threefold source of vitality, it must be in a fairly healthy state, and even when one of these is cut off as is very frequently found, caused by the death of a nerve pulp, which may be called the "internal circulation," a tooth may be kept both a useful member and as an ornament for many years. This may be done by the removal from the pulp chamber and nerve canal of every particle of dead matter, treating with proper antiseptics and finally filling both canal and chamber with whatever material is indicated. When all the dead matter is not removed and proper antiseptics used, or where there is a great tendency to vascularity, the death of the pulp results in its effects being extended to the periodontal membrane causing what is known as periodontitis. If this is not averted in some way the death of the tooth must ensue. When a dead bone is found in most parts of the body, it must be removed or its effects will be extended to surrounding parts. But nature often forbears with a dead tooth for a long time and it may be made of great use. If all the septic matter be removed from the canal, and if no irritating matter be extended to surrounding parts, no evil effects need be expected for years. A tooth is not of necessity dead until both the pulp and its enveloping membranes are dead; then and not till then is its whole source of nutrition destroyed. A tooth decreases in value according to whether one source of supply is destroyed, two sources or the three sources. The artery supplying nutrition to a tooth divides at the apex into three branches, one passing through the apical foramen, thus supplying the pulp, one going to the *tunica propria* and one to the peridentium. Thus if one or even two of these supplies be cut off, the tooth may receive sufficient food from the remaining supply so that it may be retained for an indefinite period. As systems differ so do teeth. No doubt all of us have found teeth that required but little skill to treat and fill and which would give no subsequent trouble, while again we have often to use our utmost skill in removing the dead pulp, treating and preparing the canal, and yet the tooth would be a continual source of annoyance. Some persons may have a whole row of pulpless teeth and yet no inconvenience is ever experienced, while others cannot endure having one in their mouth. This must be due to the condition of tooth or patient, rather than to the skill