

With proper instruments, lightness of touch and sympathy for our patient much can be accomplished towards alleviating the suffering.

As to special methods of treatment I merely mention, first, cataphoresis. This method, though of recent origin, is already widely known and more or less appreciated. Many in this meeting have had considerable experience with its results, which I trust will add interest and material to the discussion of this paper.

In the case of teeth of poorer structure being badly decayed and often the cavity partially filled with disorganized dentine, I generally find it of great value in alleviating the hypersensitiveness to seal up in the cavity for some days the ordinary oil of cloves. This not only acts as a slight anæsthetic but more particularly has a therapeutic effect on the diseased tubular contents and thus reducing the exalted sensitive condition of this element.

Another topical remedy of considerable importance is zinc chloride. It possesses in a very high degree the two essential properties for neutralizing the sensitive-carrying power of these tubular contents—namely, a great affinity for water, and a coagulating effect on albumen. It is very penetrating in its action and hence should be used with extreme caution in deep-seated cavities, or in teeth of poorer structure. A fully saturated solution of the salt should be applied and left; the period of pain caused by its action has ceased, which indicates that it has passed the zone of exalted sensitiveness. Its action can be immediately neutralized by flooding the cavity with water.

A special remedy I have found to be of practical value in most cases is a combination of chloroform, ether and menthol applied with a hot-air syringe. This has seldom failed me even in the most extreme cases to make the operation at least bearable.

Dr. Clyde Payne recommends in strong terms a combination of carbonate of potassium, cocaine, carbolic acid and glycerine, as follows: Make a saturate solution of carbonate of potassium and glycerine, then a saturate solution of cocaine and carbolic acid and mix the two together on a warm glass slab. After drying the cavity thoroughly with alcohol and hot air apply a drop of the obtundent and continue the blast of hot air for five minutes. Dr. Payne states that with this remedy properly applied he is able to obtain better average results than with cataphoresis.

Other specific remedies might be added to this list, but enough have been mentioned to fill the scope of this paper.

Still, aside from these special remedies, there are always two essentials which tend to lessen the suffering in the dental chair—First, the patient should not at the time be suffering from any nerve disorders. If this is found to be the case the operation should, if possible, be postponed to another appointment. Second, the relations existing between the operator and patient should be