

the deciduous teeth. Those teeth should be preserved until the permanent teeth are about to erupt. Great care should be given that the child is placed at once in the hands of a competent dentist.

In the treatment of malocclusion, we first remove the cause, whatever that cause may be. If it is nose or throat trouble, place the patient in the hands of a competent physician or rhinologist. Restore the normal occlusion of all of the teeth. Every tooth should be placed in its proper position and held there for a time to allow the alveolar process to develop about it, and the incline planes of the teeth to accommodate themselves to their new opposing surfaces, and the muscles of the face to functionate properly.

In treating such cases as protrusions, we pit the force necessary to move the teeth of one jaw forward against the force necessary to move the teeth of the other jaw backward.

In moving teeth the greatest force to overcome is that of the periodontal membrane fibers. The fibrous membrane surrounding the root of each tooth consists of inelastic connective tissue, and is richly supplied with nutrient vessels and nerves.

The fibers of the membrane pass from the cementum of the root to be inserted into the alveolar process. The arrangement of the fibers is such that they pass in every direction that will resist the movement of the tooth under its normal stress when extra or mechanical force is applied. The osteoclasts absorb the bone in front of the tooth and osteoblasts build up the bone behind. The periodontal membrane fibers are cut off or pulled away from their insertion, not all at once, but one here and there, probably the shorter ones or weaker ones, or those in the vicinity of greatest pressure. These are quickly reinserted by having new deposits of bone laid about them. This process is repeated over and over until the teeth reach their final position.

Let me say that in those cases where we have great protrusion of one jaw with recession of the opposite one, leaving a large gaping space between the two arches, it is impossible to establish normal nasal breathing without the aid of the Orthodontist. It is just as essential that the teeth, jaws, and muscles be made to functionate properly as it is that the nose be cleared.

Finally, let me say that we believe the best balance and harmony of the mouth and rest of the face is only possible with normal occlusion. Our best efforts are to assist Nature and interpret her wishes, and if we do so intelligently she will complete the growth and development of those tissues in accordance with the type of the individual. To do this we should start the