

benumbing influence on the fibrillæ, which are temporarily strangled. Rapid cutting with sharp excavators or burrs, exhaust the fibrils by frequent irritation. Half the pain given by many operators is due to poorly tempered and badly sharpened instruments. Dehydration, or drying the cavity by absolute alcohol, keeping on the rubber dam, the use of hot air, with various preparations of tannin, etc., using temporary fillings to give physiological rest to the fibrillæ, filling the cavity lightly with cotton, and applying, with an assistant, rhigolene spray, or in extreme cases of necessity, administering nitrous oxide, and operating rapidly during general anæsthesia. That is all, I think, I know. Perhaps we may yet discover something in the application of electricity.

In conclusion, I must say that I have an instinctive dislike to the use of the term "sensitive dentine." It is one of those many inaccuracies of expression and definition for which the nomenclature of dentistry is distinguished. We have, in many instances, as many names for one meaning as Mahomet had floors in his heaven, and the student who follows the dental literature of modern times will discover, that every writer is a law unto himself, to make or murder etymology, and to render Greek and Latin derivatives into that sort of English which Dr. Johnson defined, when speaking of poetry, as "ingenious nonsense." As the different points of the compass have a local wit and wisdom of their own, so they curiously seem to have an independent scientific terminology. There is so much poor coining of words in dental science, and so little harmony in their use, both by teachers and text-books, that the fashion of pitching new terms into our vocabulary is becoming a contagious nuisance. Somebody founded in Italy the *Accademia della crusca*, a society for restoring purity to the native language. Some day—let us hope at the World's Dental Congress—a special section will be entrusted with the duty of definitely settling our definitions.

Dentine *per se* is no more sensitive than enamel. We do not mean what we say when we speak of sensitive dentine; then, why do we not say what we mean? There is no such condition or possibility as sensitive lime salts. It may be thought that this is splitting hairs in argument to disapprove of terms which custom so long has sanctioned; but custom has no mortgage on fact. It