

so-called crown and bridge-work is responsible for the above condition. We add to this list artificial dentures that are not kept even with a pretence to cleanliness. But ill-fitting, leaking metal caps are hotbeds for all the forms of bacteria found as habitants of the oral cavity, causing not only irritation of the adjoining parts, but producing some of the evils found associated with extensive caries of the teeth. The vitality of the system is so lowered as to invite attacks from bacterial enemies that are nearly always present in some form. I will cite one of many of such cases that have come under my notice—a lady, wearing two upper bridges attached to the second molars by gold caps as the posterior abutments, and open-faced caps on the canines for anterior supports. The patient was in a poor state of health, as a result of the constant absorption of septic matter, incorporated in the food and by inhalation. To show that they were not just right, they had to be removed, and the stench was that that always attends such cases. Imagine the feelings of a sensitive lady realizing that she had been wearing such an appliance, it having been placed there with the assurance that it would be perfect for many years. To show that the removal was justified, after cleansing the teeth and some simple treatment for a few days, a well-fitted plate was inserted and the health of the patient at once improved, and, a year after, the plate, mouth, and general health was satisfactory. The above we consider a case of septic absorption.

The second general division of septicemia we will consider under the head of Septic Infection. This latter is a condition for which the dental surgeon may be more responsible than the former division. It is the department of inoculation—the transmitting of the virus or micro-organisms from one person to another. I have only to refer to this subject to bring before your minds the possibility, aye, the constant danger, of such transmission. There doubtless passes before your vision the long array of cancer in its various forms, venereal diseases, typhoid, tuberculosis, diphtheria, etc. Thus far we have been considering briefly the causes of septicemia as we find them, and also conditions as we create them. The question naturally arises, Can we correct these evils in whole or in part? I will not undertake to answer this question farther than to come at once to the title of this paper, Antiseptic Dentistry—that kind of dentistry best calculated to prevent or combat the septic conditions we have to meet in our daily practice. Some of us can remember when this subject was rarely discussed, and but little known. Even to-day the dangers are only partially appreciated by many dentists and medical men. This ignorance in times past could be forgiven, but no excuse can be offered at the present time. Beginning in the laboratory, how easy it is to cleanse impression cups by boiling in water in which is placed