

time is owing to the neglect of a few preliminary rules, such as enlarging the edges of the chamber and exposing the pulp as much as possible with a very sharp excavator. Unnecessary pain is given, too, if the broach is inserted directly into the pulp, instead of being gradually coaxed up closely to the sides of the chamber. The pain is greater, too, if the broach is barbed on all sides. Such a broach is barbarous. It should have a smooth side, and this side should be kept next to the pulp, and the barbs towards the bone. When it is sufficiently far up, revolve it once or twice, bringing the barbs against the pulp, and quickly draw it out.

In some cases we can so deaden sensibility by the use of carbolic acid and morphia, that the pulp can be removed with comparatively little pain; but what are we to do when the patient is nervous and irritable, and the least touch is the height of agony? What are we to do with the large number of cases met with, when the patient will not stand experimenting? In such cases, rather than use arsenic in the incisors, cuspids and bicuspid, which nearly always become more or less blue after its use, I prefer extirpation when the patient is under the influence of an anæsthetic. If it is proper at all to administer anæsthetics for dental operations, I know of no occasion demanding them more than the extirpation of a live and kicking pulp. For some time back I have experimented to discover something to obtund the sensibility of the pulp during the moment of extirpation. The idea of applying a substance which would at once act upon the fleshy pulp, robbing it of sufficient vitality, *without decomposition*, to permit of its painless and immediate extirpation, was suggested to me by observing a corn-doctor applying belladonna to an extremely sensitive corneous tumour on one of the little toes of a friend. After a few moments the base of the corn, which was buried deep in the integuments, entirely lost its sensibility, and the root, which at first was comparatively soft, was removed in one hard piece, very similar in appearance to gluten. I have tried a number of articles to bring about a similar effect on the pulps of teeth, but so far have not been at all successful. I have also tried the electric current directly upon the nerve by means of a broach, but found it increased the pain. For the removal of pulps of low vitality and far gone disease, *which cannot be saved*, it would be a great boon to have a substance to take the place of arsenic in the manner mentioned. It should invariably, however, be the principal, to make every effort to preserve before deciding to destroy.