

the tooth can be made as useful as the others. In all cases after a front tooth has been loosened by an accident it should be watched carefully for a few months to see if any change of color takes place, and if so the pulp cavity should be opened at once.

Pyorrhœa alveolaris may cause something very like alveolar abscess, and yet the pulp of the tooth will retain its vitality; but in this case the disease commences at the neck of the tooth and proceeds towards the apex of the root, which is exactly the reverse of what happens when there is a putrescent pulp. In these cases, although relief will be given by a thorough cleansing of the root, by scraping, and by one or two applications of aromatic sulphuric acid, followed by soothing dressings, there is little chance of saving the tooth for more than a year or two.

In this paper I have only meant to indicate that there are means of relieving the ordinary forms of toothache, which will be far more merciful than extraction, to the patient, and which are so simple that any surgeon can make use of them, and at least, if he cannot complete the operation, he will have relieved present suffering, and left the tooth to be treated hands which have had more practice. But I do not by any means pretend to have exhausted the subject, or to have presented anything which will be new to dentists. I am told that surgeons do not learn these things from their text-books, and I hope I have shown them that there is something more interesting about teeth than extracting them.—*London Lancet.*

DENGUE OR INFLUENZA?

An interesting feature of the prevailing "Russian epidemic" which has attracted some attention, especially at the hands of the Paris physicians, to whom the characters of influenza, or *la grippe*, are so familiar, is the variation its symptoms have exhibited from those ordinarily present in the disease. Thus it is asserted that catarrhal characters have been notably slight, the predominant features of the few days' fever being muscular pains,

prostration, headache, and in some cases a scarlatiniform eruption. Now, it is pointed out that dengue, an affection hitherto almost confined to tropical climates, prevailed extensively in Syria last spring, has since occurred widely in Constantinople, and even been observed elsewhere in the south of Europe. This fact, added to the unusual features of the present epidemic, has given rise to the notion that perhaps it is really dengue, and not influenza, which has invaded the temperate zone and been modified by subjection to altered climatic conditions. At the Academy of Medicine on the 17th inst. M. Proust, in discussing two papers on the Syrian outbreak of dengue, contributed by M. Le Brun, declared that the present epidemic in Paris, although having some features in common with dengue, could not be regarded as being that disease, but that it is really influenza with pronounced nervous symptoms. He stated that dengue has never passed beyond the limits of 45° N. and 25° S. latitude. M. Rochard added that the characteristic eruption and articular pains of dengue were not exhibited by the sufferers from the prevailing epidemic, and M. Colin said that it resembled other epidemics of *la grippe*. M. Dujardin Beaumetz, however, thought there were several points of resemblance between the two affections, and that a hasty conclusion was to be deprecated; on the other hand, M. Brouardel held that dengue and influenza were as specifically distinct as typhoid and typhus. M. Bucquoy pointed to the analogies between the two, and seemed inclined to the view that the present epidemic is dengue modified by climatic conditions. The patients he had seen complained of muscular or articular pains, and presented redness of the palate and a scarlatiniform eruption on the chest. M. Bouchardt said that dengue is contagious, *la grippe* is not; and that the latter did not extend along the lines of commercial intercourse, but was apparently influenced by atmospheric conditions. M. Proust reasserted his opinion that the epidemic was not dengue, which at Constantinople was not modified by the cold season. He also said that the eruptions noted by M. Bucquoy had not been observed by others.