

in position. Another plan which may be adopted under the same circumstances, and which renders the teeth less unsightly, is to lay a gold or platinum wire along a groove in the cutting edge of the implanted tooth and the adjacent ones, and secure it by means of gold foil packed about it. Other methods adapted to the particular cases in hand will suggest themselves to the operator, and need not be described at length, but it should be remembered that experience seems to show, that success depends largely upon keeping the tooth fixed firmly in position until the deposit of bone about it has been completed.

It is interesting to note, however, that no two operators seem to proceed in exactly the same way, and that some particular part upon which one depends largely for success, is entirely disregarded by some one else who has been equally successful. One dentist, for instance, uses only teeth that have been freshly extracted; another reports success in the case of a tooth extracted seventeen years before, and implanted in the mouth of a negro seventy-two years old. One takes care to preserve the periosteum intact; while another purposely scrapes it off. One tells us, that to insure success, the tooth should be soaked for days in an antiseptic solution; while another equally successful operator is quite satisfied with a bath of ten or fifteen minutes. One cuts off the end of the root; another leaves it on. One takes care to wash out all the little chips of bone from the socket; while another expressly states that they should be left there, because, as they contain bone corpuscles, they will form a nuclei for a deposit of bone about the tooth. And so they go on giving us conflicting advice, and at the same time reporting success, sometimes under circumstances where success could hardly be expected.

As to the changes which take place after a tooth has been implanted, there is also a great diversity of opinion. That a union of some kind takes place is beyond a doubt, but how it is brought about is not so well understood. Dr. Younger believed that the periosteum of the tooth was revived and resumed its normal function; but, as teeth have been successfully implanted from which the periosteum has been entirely removed, this must be erroneous. Two other theories have been advanced. One is that the fibrillæ of living matter from the surrounding parts penetrate the minute openings into the cementum of the root, and