Dr. J. Taylor: How is there sensitiveness if their nerve is dead or the circulation suspended? He prefers the plan of leaving the teeth for two or three weeks after the application of arsenic before filling, that the pulp may slough away and all sensitiveness be destroyed.

Dr. Cutler has had extensive experience in the use of arsenic in medical practice. It will produce extensive sloughing. It is taken into the system and breaks down the red globules of the blood, combining with the iron, thus depriving the blood, so far as this process is accomplished, of one of its necessary elements. The argument to sustain this theory was in part based upon the fact that the hydrated sesqui-oxide of iron, combines with and precipitates arsenic with such facility as to constitute the best known antidote, to its poisonous influence.

I have studied the nature and action of arsenious acid with a considerable degree of thoroughness. Do not think that any of the toxicologists have given the correct theory of the action of arsenic. It produces no change in the general structure of the tooth pulp, when applied for its devitalization, but the red blood corpuscles are broken up and destroyed; this is accomplished by the combination of the arsenic with the iron in the blood. The coloring matter of the blood consists in part, at least, of a sesqui-oxide of iron and the arsenic uniting with it forms an arsenuret of iron. It may also have a catalytic influence upon some of the other constituents of the blood. Arsenic is far more liable to be taken up by dentine before the teeth have arrived at matur development, and mischief is far more liable to occur. We know but little of the definite action of poisons.

Dr. McClelland asks if there is not, consequent upon the devitalization and decomposition of tooth pulp, a gas formed that acts as an irritant upon the living parts.

Dr. Cutler replied: There will not be gas formed to any appreciable extent, though by the breaking down of the red corpuscles carbonic acid gas may be formed to a slight extent. When the vessels at the point of a root are cut off, the blood that flowed into the pulp will be diverted to some other channel.

Dr. Morgan is very positive that arsenic by osmotic action does pass through the dentine. The enamel is organic structure and posesses vitality, as is shown by the fact that enamel not sustained by living dentine becomes friable and easily broken down.