

country that we scarcely suspect it of being pathological. You know there are patients who will scream, if they do not faint, over a simple excavation, while others are fearless, and, in fact, would not suffer in proportion in an amputation. We find the same fact with the lower animals. If you prick one horse with a pin, he will bolt; you may kick another, if you are a brute yourself, and he will think more than twice before he stirs.

I suppose we are all more practically concerned in the treatment of sensitive, dentine than in questions of its physiology. The dental pharmacopœia is full of suggestions from the earliest times. That our materia medica of the present day is by no means an entire novelty, may be seen by anyone who reads Chap. ix., Book vi. of A. Cornelius Celsus, who flourished in the time of Tiberius III., Emperor of Rome. When we discuss the therapeutics and materia medica of dentistry, let us be humbled by the reflection that over seven hundred years before the United States was a nation, the ancients had investigated and discovered remedies many of which are still in use.

Among the applications tested for relief, may be mentioned all the narcotics, anæsthetics, sedatives, and escharotics. Having said that, it might not seem necessary to particularize, but some have had more success than others; some have proved a delusion and a snare. None have, perhaps, done more mischief than arsenic—a comfort in disguise. Various combinations of creosote, carbolic acid, chromic acid, tannic acid, chloride zinc, nitrate of silver, cobalt, chloral, cocaine. Chromic acid, and chloride of zinc give severe pain on account of their greater affinity for water, and are destructive if used near the pulp. Nitrate of silver in crystal, or as a saturated solution, is useful at the periphery of the dentine, but if near the pulp, it may also cause its death. Herbst's obtundent is simply a saturated solution of cocaine hydrochlorate in chemically pure sulphuric acid, to which is added sulphuric ether to the point of saturation, allowing the excess of ether to escape by evaporation. Even that must be used with caution. If there is excess of acid, use alkali mouth washes, holding a drachm of carbonate of soda in the mouth for a few minutes frequently during the day. Rapid wedging, by forcing the apex of the root against the foramen portion of the nerve, partly choking circulation and obstructing connection with the sensorium, has a remarkable