

inches long by three-quarters of an inch wide. The cavity was syringed out three times daily with the solution of hydrozone and packed with the gauze. Granulations soon began to form, and the parts took on a more healthy aspect. The discharge ceased, and the cavity gradually closed with healthy granulations.

Contact with a case like the above, coupled with the thorough realization of the responsibility involved in the application of therapeutic agents, if met with at the outset of the professional career, might so thoroughly awaken the practitioner to realize the absolute necessity of prophylaxis in dentistry that a life-long impression might be created, resulting in mutual benefit to practitioner and patient.

---

### ANTISEPTIC DENTISTRY.\*

BY DR. H. WOODBURY, HALIFAX, N.S.

---

In this paper I propose to discuss very briefly the subject of Antiseptic Dentistry—septic strictly meaning to putrefy, causing putrefaction. The word is used in so broad a sense as not to be very definite; but for our purpose we will consider it under two heads. First, under the head of Septic Poisoning, produced by putrefaction or decomposing tissue. This decomposition is doubtless due to the presence of micro-organisms or bacteria, but just how it is not so easy to say; but we hope for more light on this subject as the years go by. The dentist is constantly meeting this form of septicemia, caused by decomposing tooth pulps, often treated lightly by those who do not know the virulent nature of the poison. Just here the writer calls to mind an experience of the past: being summoned about midnight to see a man who had been confined to his house for a few days with an ulcerated lower right molar. The swelling was extensive and tending to gravitate downward. The treatment was poulticing the side of the neck as far down as the clavical. I saw at once that the case was serious. The septic poison was doing its deadly work rapidly. I told the friends that extraction was of no avail, as it was too late. They assured me that was all that was required; but in a short time life was extinct. There were all the symptoms of septicemia. Many causes of septic poisoning, aside from the above, are well known to the profession, and it would be needless to recite them any farther than to remark, that, in my humble opinion much of the

---

\* Read before the Dental Association of Nova Scotia, Halifax, N.S.