

with difficulty that opening through the hard palate could be found, but finally by draining the sac and applying considerable force to abscess syringe, introduced at fistulous opening, it was located and a free opening made, disclosing to the probe a very large loss of the cancellous structure between the two plates of bone, so much, indeed, that it seemed almost impossible that other teeth were not involved, but am certain they were vital. Followed usual treatment, and new tissues were forming when, on account of return of patient to his college work, case was resigned to Dr. Andrews, of Cambridge, Mass., under whose treatment it is doing finely. Saw the patient during the holidays. There still existed one small pocket where tissues were not forming, and it is possible a little more diseased bone may need to be taken away, but for the most part it was filling nicely with new tissue, and a favorable outcome is assured.

THE USE AND ABUSE OF THE DENTAL ENGINE.

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Amongst the many appliances necessary to the dentist the engine is one of the most important. It can accomplish easily and in a short time what, by hand, would require considerable force and a much longer time. Having, as it has, so many good qualities, and offering, as it certainly does, so many short cuts on so many operations, it is not surprising that it should have become almost universally abused. Not only is the engine itself wrongly treated, but it is used in operations where, in the common interest of humanity, it has no business. A dental engine is a piece of fine machinery, and must be treated as such. It should not be subjected to strains greater than it is intended to bear. It will carry a certain size of tool in the hand piece, according to the strength and stiffness of the arm, cable or cord attachment, and if a larger tool is used the engine will suffer. It will stand a certain pressure upon the tool, and if the pressure be increased unduly there will be trouble. The chief wrong uses to which the engine is put are grinding up artificial teeth and boring holes in metal. It is false economy to use a fifty dollar engine upon work that can be better done on a ten dollar lathe and a dollar drill-stock.

One of the tests of a good mechanic is delicacy in handling tools. A true mechanic will apply just the required amount of force to accomplish the object, and not a particle more. Moreover, a skilful mechanic always maintains a counteracting force which is used to guard against the slipping or breaking of