

Take a case of hæmorrhage. One may use powdered tannin and fail to stop the bleeding. It then occurs to him to use perchloride of iron. At once tannate of iron is the result; an incompatible mixture. Either if persisted in alone might have succeeded; now combined they are both inert.

I once witnessed a clinic where an operator in treating a blind abscess used peroxide of hydrogen, carbolic acid, oil of gaultheria, oil of peppermint, hot water, chloroform and iodine, all separately and successively. I felt as if they ought to be passed down his own throat in one dose, for the sooner an idiot like that was out of the world the better it would be for humanity.

Let me simply warn young practitioners and some old ones, too, to learn first the action and proper uses of the drugs, and avoid multiplication as much as possible, to learn incompatibles, and to remember that in the teeth and gums nature is often as ready to help as elsewhere. Many of the "complaints" of the oral cavity as well as those of the womb, etc., may be due to drugging.

DECIDUOUS CUSPIDS.

By B.

It is a trite observation, that the deciduous set of teeth are of more than temporary importance; they have functional duties as well as their successors. One might write voluminous arguments, tracing their growth and development from the earliest period of intra-uterine life, until the normal period for their shedding to show that their importance is not fully appreciated. But I wish briefly to draw attention again to the mischief done to the development of the permanent set by the premature extraction of the temporary cuspids specially. In fact, we need to pay particular attention to the six teeth anterior to the first deciduous molars, but the cuspids, like the two pillars of an arch, are by far the most important in ensuring regularity of development. It will be observed that if these cuspids are prematurely lost, the first bicuspid of the permanent set rapidly travels forward, whether it is developed or not, and the permanent cuspid, whether it is developed or not, has a contracted space for entrance and crowds the centrals and laterals in a way to predispose them to caries. Fortunately these cuspids rarely decay. But by the absorption of their roots, they frequently loosen and fall out, when it would be advisable to retain them. In such cases I have been in the habit of fitting a small plate to the hard palate and letting vulcanite take the place of the lost teeth. The necessary space for the successors is in that way retained, and as they appear the vulcanite can be filed away until the plate can be dispensed with.