

In this connection it may be well to call to your attention the investigations recently published by Dr. Emil Schreier, of Vienna, with respect to the nature of the infecting organism in apical periodontitis. This observer found in all the cases of apical inflammation about the roots of teeth which he examined, twenty or more in all, the diplococcus pneumoniae, invariably present as the exciter of the inflammatory process. This is in line with Miller's investigations, which showed that the diplococcus pneumoniae was a constant inhabitant of the mouth. As a further link in this particular chain of evidence, Dr. C. N. Pierce recently recounted to me two cases of incipient croupous pneumonia which occurred at different times in a family who were patients of his. In each instance the child was suffering from difficult eruption of the teeth, and in each case croupous pneumonia was set up as a sequel. In both cases Dr. Pierce performed gum lancing, and in both cases there was subsidence of all the distressing symptoms in a few hours, with rapid and complete recovery. To any one who has investigated this subject, especially from the clinical standpoint, there can be no doubt as to the great utility of the operation in relieving in many cases the most alarming symptoms. It is simply and easily performed, and there are no weighty objections which can be urged against it, so that it is a matter of continued wonder that there can be found in the ranks of medical practitioners those who still strongly oppose it.

It may be asked of what interest can the question be to the dentist, who is seldom, if ever, called upon to operate in these cases. To this I would answer, prepare yourselves by an intelligent understanding of the operation, and its correct relationships, and you will be consulted with respect to these matters when it is known that you are competent to give judgment upon them. Or, if the knowledge has no usefulness outside of your immediate family, it may still afford you the opportunity to save the life of some one dear to you. I verily believe it has upon more than one occasion in my own family circle.—*Dental Practitioner and Advertiser.*

---

### Death Under Nitrous Oxide Gas.\*

By JOHN ADAMS, F.R.C.S. Eng.

---

The patient came to the dentist on Monday, February 21st, about 1.30 p.m., and had an hour previously partaken of a light lunch. After waiting half an hour, he was shown into the operating room on the first floor. He seemed in good health, and wished to have a second right upper molar extracted whilst under gas.

\* A Paper read before the Society of Anæsthetists on March 15th, 1894.