

sensitive and bled considerably. Made slight application of arsenic, and instructed to return next morning. Did not return until August 31st. Tooth slightly sore. Removed balance of pulp. Instrument would pass through end of root. I pumped dil. chloride of zinc through root and it passed out of fistula. Did condition of pulp cause abscess, or did abscess cause condition of pulp?

(a) According to the history of the case abscess caused the condition of pulp. Had the condition of pulp caused the abscess, the former would have been found decomposed and putrescent when an opening had been made with the cause through the tooth.

CARL E. KLOTZ, St. Catharines, Ont.

(b) My opinion is that nerve trouble caused abscess.

H. R. ABBOTT, London, Ont.

(c) Dental alveolar abscess is the result of a dead pulp, therefore when I found sensitive dentine in the left central without an exposure of the pulp, I would have looked elsewhere for the cause, and no doubt it is to be found in the right central, the abscess burrowing in the direction of the left. I would remove the filling, open up the canal and treat again, forcing the medicine through from the canal to the fistula. Strong escharotics are not needed in most cases; thorough disinfection and cleanliness are usually sufficient to bring about the desired result. I think the abscess was the cause of the inflamed condition of pulp.

W. A. BROWNLEE, Mount Forest, Ont.

(d) An abscess at any point is conclusive evidence of the presence of some septic matter. The abscess itself is the effort of nature to expel from the system the poison. Your diagnosis of the case was, while not correct, what would have been correct in ninety-nine cases in one hundred, though usually accompanied with discoloration. The presence of some portion of necrosed bone or dead pulp of either of the pulpless teeth, or a low condition of the general health, in which the weak parts show up. Pulpless teeth often display weakness at such times. Hence we believe that the irritant causing the trouble complained of may have been in connection with right central or lateral. Causes always precede effects, hence a living pulp could not be the cause of abscess.

G. J. CLINT, Winnipeg.

### Questions.

22. Q.—We are warned against conveying septic matter from one patient to another by use of unsterilized instruments. Is there not the same danger of transmitting from a diseased to a healthy part of the same mouth? How can it be best avoided? and how best treated, if the accident occur?