

Sometimes a dentist does prescribe a wash and gives instructions with it. What is the result in a large majority of cases? The patient forgets the instructions and uses the wash, thinking he has a specific without labor, but in a short time he finds dire results. Every wash should be accompanied by careful instructions as to its use, which should be minutely followed. They are usually prescribed in cases of inflamed mucous membranes and gum tissues, where the inflammation does not recede even after the irritant has been removed. They should be used only for a short period, for in a few weeks they lose the desired effect on the tissues.

Tooth pastes and powders are valuable in the cleansing of the teeth and mouth, and particularly so if the saliva is inclined to be sticky or ropy. They should contain a reasonable amount of fine grit—preferably a grit soluble in the fluid of the mouth. A small amount should be placed upon the brush in the cleansing process. One should see to it that all particles of paste or powder are entirely eliminated from the mouth by thorough rinsing afterwards with pure water.

Tooth brushes should be of the proper size and shape, so that one may cleanse every surface of every tooth of both jaws. In the majority of mouths two brushes at least are necessary, a labial and a lingual brush. For children under seven or eight years of age, a small brush with one row of bristles, as the "Hutax" child's brush, is strongly recommended. For all over that age, I think there is none better than the medium-size Hutax brush for all labial surfaces and the lingual brush for lingual surfaces. I have used a great many different brushes and have yet to see one that can compare favorably with the Hutax. They are properly shaped, so that every surface of every tooth may be reached.

I saw an article on oral conditions read before this society in October, in which the writer suggested three ways of remedying evils he perceived in the use of a tooth brush for many mouths.

1. All tooth brushes should be boiled before and after use for five minutes.

2. Use a new tooth brush every day.

3. Rinse brush in trikresol 1 per cent. or stand in formalin 10 per cent.

In the first place the boiling of the brush is impracticable or would soon destroy it. Secondly, a new brush every day is too expensive for the average person, and thirdly, the soaking in solutions would destroy and soften the bristles to such an extent that they would not do their work any great length of time. However,