

calculus. There is no surface of any tooth exposed to the fluids of the mouth which may not accumulate this deposit, provided there is an absence of friction on that surface.

The full function of mastication would seem to be one of the most effectual natural processes in limiting the deposition of salivary calculus, it being plainly evident to an observant operator the moment he looks into a mouth where mastication is confined to one side. It will invariably be found that the teeth on the unused side will present an altogether neglected appearance, and if there is a predisposition to the formation of calculus they will be almost completely covered with it, even over the occlusal surfaces. A striking object-lesson may be given patients as to the necessity of keeping the teeth in active and uniform service by calling attention to the difference in appearance of the teeth on the two sides, and impressing them with the fact that wherever, for any reason, thorough mastication is impracticable the deficiency should be supplied by substituting artificial friction with the tooth-brush. The demand for friction relates as well to the gums as to the teeth, it being very exceptional to find a healthy condition of the gums in any locality not subjected to full functional use.

This question of giving the teeth and gums adequate employment should be carefully studied by operators, and its necessity forced upon the attention of patients. It is the keynote of health in the mouth, as elsewhere in the human body, and it should be the prime function of the dentist to keep the oral tissues healthy. It is infinitely a higher aim to prevent disease than to cure it, and if dentists take this matter seriously to heart they can accomplish much in this direction. A critical study should be made of the conditions present in every mouth coming under the operator's attention, and a careful note made of the various landmarks of neglect. The results of this neglect must invariably be pointed out to the patient, and an impression made in such a manner that it cannot be ignored. If the dentist thereby fails to enlist the co-operation of his patient, it is only common justice to at once absolve himself from responsibility for the ultimate saving of the teeth. This will usually bring the patient to a proper realization