

small opening, but make it so large that there will be no question of an unobstructed view of the root-canal. It is far safer to remove a large quantity of healthy tooth-structure which can be perfectly restored by suitable filling material, than be compelled to operate in root canals entirely by the sense of touch. The contents of the canals should be then thoroughly removed, and by the careful performance of this portion of the operation is determined the successful prevention of the onsetting attack, or the cure of the disease if it already exists.

Frequently we meet with cases where the opening of the canals for the escape of gases, etc., fails to bring relief. This is an indication that the tissues of the peridental membrane have become so far implicated that the inflammatory process will go on independent of further irritation. This has no doubt proved the most difficult stage of the affection for most of us to control. I have found nothing better than the application of moist heat to the gums surrounding the affected tooth.

The method of procedure is as follows: Water as hot as the tissues will tolerate is taken up in a large bulb syringe, having a fine point. A jet of hot water is directed on the gums and into the cavity of the tooth. During the re-filling of the syringe the water is to be retained in the mouth and then emptied into the spittoon just previous to another application. The heat of the water should be gradually raised as the tissues will admit, as one of the essentials to success is to employ an exceedingly high degree of heat. The gum in the immediate vicinity of the inflammation will tolerate a much higher temperature than normal tissues; the latter, therefore, should be protected. The process should be kept up till perfect relief has been obtained. In some instances relief will be very sudden; in others it will require persistent treatment for perhaps thirty or even forty minutes before a substantial effect is produced.

When a patient has what is commonly called "a heavy cold," if the circulation and absorbent systems are badly out of condition, or if the excretory organs fail to perform their function, then relief is necessarily temporary, and we must resort to general treatment. Hot foot-baths, with laxative and diaphoretic remedies, will be useful. Citrate of magnesia, as a rapidly acting cathartic, in large doses, is one of the most pleasant and satisfactory.

After the debris and remains of the decomposed pulps have been removed and the canal or canals made as clear of obstruction as possible with a sterilized broach and washing with hydrogen