

morbid condition, that must be corrected. These are the instances in which the patient has had a little pain, more or less severe, continuing for an hour or two sometimes, or again only a few minutes, owing to some thermal shock or sudden pressure. These we treat with creosote or carbolic acid, placing it in the cavity on a pledget of cotton, and sealing it with cotton and sandarac, repeat two or three times at intervals of thirty-six or forty-eight hours, and then fill the cavity with Hill's stopping. This will protect it entirely from thermal changes, and may be left in from four to six weeks, when, if there has been no trouble, remove the filling, and refill partially with zinc and cap with gold. If the tooth will endure the perfect sealing with the gutta percha for a month or six weeks, we regard it as evidence, in ordinary cases, of the health of the pulp. We leave them longer if there is any doubt, or if the case is a bad one, for time is the test, two or three months in the worst conditions at the farthest, with careful manipulation, will ensure nineteen cases out of twenty.

A pulp exposed by the natural decay of the tooth, and that has a portion of its surface entirely denuded, is a dainty subject to deal with. Before it has arrived at this condition, it has passed through many tribulations, and only escaped congestion by some rare and happy combination of circumstances. There has been of course some inflammation, the result of numberless thermal shocks, if nothing more, and this adds to its natural sensibility a morbid condition that complicates the case excessively, our first step is to be assured of the absence of congestion, and one of the most reliable indications to our mind, is the vitality of the nerve filaments in tubuli, and a partial excavation will soon satisfy us; this with the knowledge we can get of the subject as to the amount and character of pain experienced at different times, will give us a tolerably accurate diagnosis. Having removed as much of the decay as possible we lay a pledget of cotton saturated with creosote directly over the part exposed, and seal loosely with sandarac and cotton, great care being exercised that there shall be no pressure; after one or two treatments fill the cavity with zinc. If all right, the pain caused by the filling will pass off in from two to six hours. If subsequently the tooth is very sensitive to heat and cold, cut away a portion of the filling and cap with Hill's stopping. Such cases as these we leave for three months, then remove the filling and ascertain the condition of the pulp; if we find it alive, refill with zinc and cap with gold. We have had a few