

Morrison, some time ago, before the St. Louis Dental Society, of which the writer, according to an editorial note, is very proud. It is entitled "Anti-extraction," and is a fair sample of its kind.

In the first paragraph Dr. Morrison says: "Out of one hundred teeth extracted daily in this city, ninety-nine should not be extracted, but should be carefully and painlessly cleansed from soft decay at the margin (not over the pulp), and filled with some non-conducting cement, and kept filled, imperfectly though it may be." Now, does Dr. Morrison want us to infer from this that ninety-nine out of every hundred teeth extracted in St. Louis have living pulps? If so, it would be of interest to some of us to know how he manages to cleanse them painlessly, what cement he uses that is non-conducting, and whether this invariably relieves the toothache. Following this he devotes a paragraph to the "worthy cheap dentist," who he thinks might do an immense amount of good "if he would confine himself to legitimate cheap dentistry." Probably Dr. Morrison thinks it would be well for the "worthy cheap dentist" to confine himself to treating and filling teeth, in the manner above described, for such patients as high-class dentists might see fit to send him. A little farther on he says: "There is no truth in the saying that any tooth or root cannot be filled." Giving his own experience, he continues: "For years I have extracted teeth or roots only when they were so loose that they could be removed with the thumb and finger, and I most heartily wish every other member of the profession would adopt that rule. There should be no artificial dentures made by the future dentist," etc., etc.

Now, if all this means anything at all, it means that Dr. Morrison would never extract a badly decayed first molar for a child, no matter how crowded the teeth might be; that a tooth erupted in some abnormal position—say into the roof of the mouth, would be left untouched even though it might interfere with the movements of the tongue; that a patient would be allowed to suffer for years with an impacted wisdom tooth; that a temporary cuspid, if firm, would be left in the mouth while its permanent successor was growing in such a direction as to threaten to penetrate the lip; and that, in short, in order to carry out a theory he would disregard those conditions which nearly all writers on dental science have agreed upon as indicating extraction. It means, further, that he