

local, without any constitutional aggravation? He places special emphasis on ill-fitting regulating appliances, plates, etc. As regulating appliances are mostly used on young mouths, where I believe we seldom if ever come across a case of pyorrhea alveolaris, that, to my mind, cannot be a very common cause, although I believe in the effect of traumatic injury, and the degenerating effect which may result from it. In regard to the point of faulty articulation where teeth have been extracted, the disease from this cause has never happened in my practice, and in any mouths that I have seen that way I have never noticed the effect he speaks of. I know that personally I have seen cases of pyorrhea as common where the articulation appeared to be all right, as otherwise, particularly if the teeth were somewhat crowded.

Dr. Curtis speaks of any local condition which leads to degeneracy of tissue. Does the progress of degeneracy ever continue to the stage of pyorrhea from local influence, or does the constitutional influence come in and play a part, and how? These are vital points to me in deciding the necessity of constitutional treatment in a great majority of cases. If restoration to health is essential to the cure, and specific disease the primary cause of this malady, where does the disease go to in the case of extraction, where you get a direct healing without doing any more to the case? Have you seen any cases where you have been unsuccessful in the elimination of the disease, or where a cavity did not heal up nicely after the extraction of a tooth affected with pyorrhea? If I interpret Dr. Curtis's remarks correctly, he finds that there are three different classes of this trouble: first, the class in which the cause is wholly constitutional; second, the class in which the cause is wholly local; and third, the class where both are combined. And in that respect he would agree with most writers on the subject.

I am inclined to think, from the limited number of cases that I have handled, that true pyorrhea may be greatly aggravated by constitutional disturbance, and yet I believe that a large majority, if not all the cases, can be cured by the thorough removal of the deposit and proper treatment of the soft tissues. This is a very skilful and a very difficult operation, and I feel that it is the lack of thoroughness in this operation which is the greatest cause of the failures. One of the greatest impediments that I have found in aggravated cases in the treatment of this affliction is the double-pocket where you will go along down the side of the tooth and come to a sort of an obicular constriction and you think you have got to the bottom of the trouble, but to your surprise find that you keep on having an exudation of pus, and you won't know what it means, until finally you discover you have not gone deep enough. You then work up beyond this constriction and find that