concentrated action of a chemical agent, which has a stronger affinity for the fibrils than for the dentine; but that would not explain the difficulty.

The dentine of rapidly decaying teeth is more sensitive than in slow caries. A fracture which exposes the dentine is hypersensitive at the line of fracture. Frequently we find in worn down crowns a point intensely sensitive, so extremely minute that we cannot diagnose it with a probe. Newly opened, and especially obscure cavities, are more sensitive than cavities of the same size and age which have been exposed to mastication. For this reason, approximal cavities are more sensitive, as a rule, than those on the crowns; and those bordering on the cementum more sensitive than either, especially when, through the medium of the "granular" layer of the dentine, there happens to be a fusion of the two. Frequently the sensitiveness is confined to the layer of decomposed dentine which we scoop out at a cut with a spoon excavator. Why is this decomposed layer *per se* so hyper-sensitive? You can put that in the question box for some one to answer.

During menstruation and pregnancy, and in many constitutional conditions, especially in rheumatism, gout, etc., when there is an acid reaction, there is an exalted sensibility of the fibrils. It is a fact that the fibrils, which were intensely sensitive before exposure of the pulp, over their layer of dentine, decomposed or not, are reduced by actual exposure.

Whatever controversy may exist as to the histology and physiology of this subject, we know that the preservation of the normal integrity of the fibrillæ is important, excepting, perhaps, in old teeth. In children's teeth, especially in the deciduous set, the fibrillæ are generally hyper-sensitive, and it is unwise to place a metal filling over the dentine, without the interposition of a non-conductor, or, at least, carbolizing the albumen of the cavity by previously inserting carbolic acid for a few minutes, or by following the idea presented by our friend, Dr. Stebbins, in the use of nitrate of silver.

Hyper-sensitiveness may be so intense that constitutional treatment may be advisable. It may be associated with extreme sensitiveness of bodily and mental condition; a high-strung intensity of the nervous system, which is so common in this