

Thomas Fillebrown told us last week, but I am glad to know the debt is being repaid.

Here the speaker wishes to pay a tribute to an honored senior predecessor, Dr. W. T. Aikins, who for many years used his great influence in pointing the moral of bad teeth, as well as to enforce the laws of hygiene in general. But if the dentist and the doctor are to act more freely in concert hereafter, the former must not trench on the domain of the latter, and the physician, on his part, must let alone the legitimate work of the dental surgeon. He will aid the latter not by virtue of less but of greater knowledge, for he will have clearer light as to the need of early care, and as family supervisor will relegate to the dentist many cases that in the past have been let go to the bad. He will be the more on the alert from his knowledge of family traits and hereditary tendencies. He will not be above utilizing his little laryngeal mirror to detect hidden caries. Not extracting teeth himself, he will also know when they should *not* be extracted, in contrast to his old-time forerunner, who knew how to extract teeth and did it, but unfortunately did not know when *not* to sacrifice them. He will certainly *not* let carious teeth set up periostitis and burrowing sinuses which he would be prompt to arrest in other places; nor hasten disfiguring perforating ulceration of the cheek by applying poultices externally, when the removal of an offending tooth or a simple incision to the bone would relieve about as promptly as the timely cut does a progressing whitlow. He will certainly not advise nor consent to the removal of numbers of healthy teeth for the cure of neuralgia of centric or truncal origin; nor fail to bear in mind the effect of diseased teeth upon the ear, eye, etc. He will correct the baneful effects of family traditions and prevent much of that suffering and danger to health due to fatuous neglect from ignorance. How long, think you, would folk wait if serious disease set in at different points of a rib, for example, which is, roughly speaking, the equivalent of the adult teeth in the aggregate?

If other than a benign Being overruled the destinies of the race, one could imagine that wonderful evolution of the deciduous and permanent teeth becoming a matter of history, and as a just retribution a toothless race appearing on the stage, left wholly to the aid and art of the dentist, the most wicked of whom could hardly, in his wildest dreams, have hoped for such largesse of opportunity! In this connection I must cite two incidents, one dating many years ago: At the tea-table, with the older folk, were three children of from four to eight years, and before them lay three kinds of cake, two of preserves, two plates of quartered pickled cucumbers and a modicum of bread. The young folk took freely of the cucumber, preserves and cake, and also tea, and shortly went to bed. This gave me one clue to that early and general decay of