

## HOMŒOPATHY IN DENTAL PRACTICE.

BY E. BUMGARDNER, M.D.

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One of the principles that is pretty thoroughly established and recognized among homœopaths is this: A general disease must not be ignored and aggravated by treatment of one of its local expressions. Too little attention has been given to the relation between local and systemic disease. Every disease must have a beginning, and that beginning must be at some particular point. The whole body cannot be diseased before it has come in contact with some deleterious influence, and, as a rule, the first injury is done at the point of contact, and the earliest symptoms appear there. A pathological process, however, will not be confined for any length of time to a local part. Unless it be of the most trifling nature, starting from the point of initial lesion, it will be communicated by anatomical and functional continuity to the entire body.

A distinction should be made between a pathological process and an abnormal local condition. The latter may or may not be the result of a former disease. Conditions may exist which cannot be regarded as normal, although they are not the result of perverted vital force; other abnormal conditions may exist without producing any derangement of the vital force. Much of the work of the dentist is for the improvement of these conditions, and has no direct relation to therapeutics.

### THE DENTIST

may insert a perfect filling in a tooth without considering anything except the mechanical and artistic questions involved in the operation, but teeth may be patched and re-patched times without number without any effect being produced upon the tendency they have to decay. We are coming to recognize more and more the fact that perverted vital force is responsible for the liability of teeth to decay. Local conditions should be considered chiefly as only predisposing causes of decay. A systemic disturbance which is acting as an exciting cause of tooth decay should be dealt with by the use of the indicated internal remedy, just as any other general disease. Theoretically, there

is a period in the development of every disease during which remedies may properly be applied locally. It is not always for the therapeutic effect that the specialist makes local use of a drug; the chemical or physiological effect may be desired. When a remedy is to be used locally for its therapeutic effect, it should be selected on account of its homœopathic indication for the local condition, but when a malady is in possession of the whole organism, "every external treatment of a local symptom, whose aim is to extinguish it on the surface of the body without curing the internal miasmatic disease, is not only useless but injurious."

Dentists, as well as other specialists, are too liable to consider only the local condition with which they have to deal.

### THE ADMINISTRATION OF INTERNAL REMEDIES,

and especially of homœopathic remedies, for the relief and cure of dental troubles is a subject that has never been well developed, and such a paper as this must necessarily be incomplete. I have been requested to make this paper as practical as possible, and I shall give my experience with a few remedies rather than theories upon many.

The first, and what has always appeared to me to be the most remarkable result obtained in my experience by the use of a homœopathic remedy, was the cure of what would be called a pathological condition of the mucous glands of the mouth. Besides the three principal glands which secrete saliva, there are minute mucous glands situated along the borders of the gums at the necks of the teeth. In a state of health these mucous glands secrete a clear, colorless, and slightly acid fluid which bathes the necks and crowns of the teeth, dissolving and washing away the minute particles of food that may lodge between the teeth.

### WE OFTEN FIND CASES

in which the secretions are viscid, excoriating and corrosive. It seems to dissolve the enamel just below the margin of the gums, and we have produced here the most sensitive cavities with which we ever have to deal. Cavities appear in a few weeks. If the dentist does nothing but fill the cavities, the teeth requ