

affecting the teeth, or the nerves distributed thereto, may lead to grave consequences, or indicate present, and serious mischief. Apart from inflammation, various and important changes often take place in the pulp cavity of the tooth. I have referred to the polypus of the tooth-pulp of a carious tooth. "This formation is a dense gristly, purplish coloured mass." It "is always attached by a constricted base to the pulp in the canal of one or more of the fangs. The mass itself is usually more or less rounded," generally it fills the cavity.

Again there is a growth of the pulp after fracture from mechanical violence, attended with much sensitiveness. Heat or cold in such cases causes great distress, and under such circumstances the pulp frequently sprouts into a small excrescence.

Reference might be made to the subject of teething. If a child is healthy, and nothing disturbs the parts, nor the nerves, their teething will take place without distress. But the ailments of children are many, and the shedding of the temporary teeth, and the coming of their permanent successors are frequently attended with abnormal conditions in which the nerves are affected, either as cause or effect.

Then, there is the eruption of the wisdom tooth, which is sometimes attended with much pain. This is often due to insufficient room. It leads to much derangement of the nerves, causing spasmodic contraction of the masseter, and altered secretion; sometimes inflammation of the fauces.

We have now, cursorily it is true, taken notice of the various pathological changes in anatomy which occasionally present themselves in connection with the fifth pair of cranial nerves. In the next place I design to engage your attention relative to derangement of function of this nerve. And, almost any morbid change in the anatomy, such as I have enumerated, is likely to produce a change in the function.

In the first place, we must call to mind, for a moment, what are the physiological actions and condition of this nerve—what are its various duties. It is necessary to do this in order to properly comprehend any departure from a healthy state, and thus be enabled to fully discriminate between Physiology and Pathology, which is not always easily done. Oftentimes the abnormal action, although a departure from the natural is, notwithstanding, a physiological attempt to restore, on the part of nature.