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ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

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EDITORIAL NOTES ON PRACTICAL SUBJECTS.

EXTERNAL APPLICATIONS IN INCIPIENT ALVEOLAR ABSCESS.

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It needs a comparatively limited dental practice to discover, that no inconsiderable amount of ignorance prevails among the large proportion of our patients, and to some extent among medical men, regarding the diagnosis and treatment of those cases of toothache which result in incipient alveolar abscess and swelling of the cheek. As a general thing there is no distinction made between exposure and inflammation of the pulp of the tooth, and inflammation of the periosteum; and the orthodox treatment of cloves, creasote, and hot fomentations is used, until after a long period of experimenting, the sufferer finds in the dental surgery, final and possibly fatal relief, where he might have found successful treatment at first.

There is a tendency among all classes of people to undertake their own treatment in the incipient stages of disease, and even in many instances, in cases where disease has made extensive progress; and an immense amount of faith is pinned to the *ipse dixit* of some antedeluvian granny; or to some quackish pill, drop, or lotion, which whether they kill or cure, succeed at all events in the principal object for which they were manufactured, viz.: making fortunes for their inventors. Every druggist can testify, that people who, by their own confessions, and the questions they ask, prove themselves to be almost ignorant of the real nature of their complaint, and blindly ignorant of the proper means to be used for restoration, will assume to over-