

had found fifty cases of death resulting from abscesses caused by diseased teeth, or from dental operations performed without proper antiseptic precautions; and says, doubtless there have been hundreds of such cases, but the practitioner is not willing to have them made public. Serious results may also follow the wounding of the soft parts of the mouth, by the accidental slipping of germ laden burs, drills, excavators, etc., while working on the teeth. A young lady graduate had the misfortune to accidentally wound her finger while using the dental engine. The wound proved fatal.

You will, no doubt, be inclined to ask, What has all this to do with dentistry? I can only answer, very little, to those who think our profession consists in simply knowing how to manipulate the gas-bag, forceps and vulcanizer. On the other hand, it means a great deal to those who look upon dentistry as being a branch of the healing art. The mouth being the portal, or entrance to the system, it exerts a much greater influence over our general health than either patients or physicians are willing to admit. Only think for a moment, that the mouth may at any time become the focus of infection in many ways, and thus lay the foundation for some of the most dangerous diseases, and some of the worst of these may be brought about by the dentist's inability or carelessness. It behoves us as dentists to make ourselves well acquainted with the science of bacteriology, for the literature of medicine is *filled* with triumphal records of aseptic and antiseptic surgery.

Anyone who has occupied himself with this subject knows that the loss of appetite, nausea, and general ill-health are often brought about by improper attention to the mouth, causing a chronic state of putrefaction, the products being absorbed by the mucous membrane, with serious results to the general health, and these patients finally retored to good health by simply putting the mouth in a normal condition.

Tuberculosis is an infectious disease that is readily conveyed from one person to another, and is caused by a micro-organism which attacks the lungs. Expectorations follows; the bacilli are in the sputa, these may lodge in a decayed tooth, on the gums, or in other parts of the oral cavity. Has it ever occurred to any of you that these micro-organisms may be conveyed from the mouth of a consumptive to the mouth of a healthy person, for it is said that when direct inoculation occurs by means of an instrument in the hands of a dentist or physician, it is almost certain to prove fatal?