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ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

TREATMENT OF COMPLICATED CAVITIES.

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Complicated cavities, as distinguished from simple cavities, are those in which there is a breach in the walls of the pulp cavity; complication consisting in the fact that some treatment of the pulp is called for, in addition to the ordinary treatment of the cavity of decay. As a rule, we hear of more or less pain in connection with these cases, sometimes spontaneous, and sometimes the result of chemical or mechanical irritation of the exposed pulp. The amount of pain, the character of the pain, and the apparent exciting cause of the pain, must all be considered, in deciding upon the treatment to be pursued. In cases where the suffering has been great, and the paroxysms cannot be traced to external irritation, we generally find considerable inflammation of the pulp. The first thing to be done is to afford relief. This can be effectually and permanently given by the application of arsenical paste,* which

* The formula I have found most successful is that announced by my friend Dr. Flagg, of Philadelphia:—

Arsenious Acid, 1 part.
Acetate of Morphia, 2 parts.
Creosote, q. s.

To form a stiff paste.

I dip a bit of cotton in pure carbolic acid, then smear a portion of paste on it, and apply to the exposed surface. It seldom gives any pain.