

meet? In proportion as malocclusion exists the function of the teeth, speech, and facial lines are impaired. The opportunities and possibilities of improvement of the facial lines and features are so great, and the appreciation of the parents and friends so genuine, we wonder that a closer study and a keener interest was not awakened in the medical practitioner long ago. It is to be greatly regretted that so few have a proper conception of Orthodontia and its work, and the possibilities of improvement upon the speech, health and beauty of the individual.

The work and treatment of Orthodontia is not based upon irregular teeth but normal occlusion of the teeth. We must have an intimate knowledge of facial type, a quick perception of the normal in that type. Type in the individual is made up of the predominating characteristics of that race to which he belongs. We must consider the numerous changes which occur subsequent to tooth movement.

Let us now get a definite knowledge of the forces which govern normal occlusion.

These forces are:—

1. The incline planes of the teeth.
2. Muscular pressure of lips, cheeks, tongue, etc.
3. Harmony of the dental arches, or the normal relations of the teeth of one arch to the other.

The importance of the incline planes of the teeth arises from the fact that these planes act as guides to the erupting teeth, as they emerge from the gum. The first permanent molar is one of the first of the permanent dentition to erupt, it arrives behind the last deciduous or baby molar about the sixth year. The last deciduous molar acts as a guide to the permanent one. The lower molar erupts first. When the other upper molar comes into position, it is guided by its own and the incline planes of the opposing lower molar. Now it depends upon the position of the cusps of this lower molar at this time as to whether these corner stones of the denture are going to lock normally or not. Therefore, we have the same force perverted into an abnormal one and governing now. Malocclusion, if the cusps of the erupting teeth are diverted from their right course, and if the teeth first to erupt are misplaced, is surely followed by a general malocclusion throughout the mouth.

Muscular pressure acts upon the teeth to mould them into position. The tongue exerts an outward pressure while the lips and cheek muscles exert an inward pressure.

Harmony of the arches is essential. The teeth of the lower jaw erupt first; this creates a mould over which the upper arch is