

Time, labour and care spent in forming the cavity, will be repaid with interest, by facility of introducing the filling, and by the character of the operation when completed.

SENSITIVE DENTINE.

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Sensitive Dentine, properly speaking, is a diseased condition of that part of the tooth, and is either brought about by some pathological change, derangement, or external injury; and whenever we have any of the above metamorphosis in the healthy condition of dentine, there is as a natural consequence, hyper sensitiveness, which, if not removed, will cause, under our physiological law of conduction of nerve force, toothache, ultimately under the law of radiation or reflection, producing facial neuralgia through the media of the fifth and seventh pair of nerves, which last condition very often results from the carelessness of the practitioner, or probably, more often, from negligence of the patient.

Now that we have arrived at some clue to the cause of the disease, our next duty is to draw attention to the removal of that cause if possible, and if not, to the disagreeable consequences issuing therefrom.

Remedies at the present time are so numerous and different in their after results, that it is very difficult indeed to say with sincerity, "that ours is *the specific*." And if such a conclusion could be possibly arrived at by the ardent researches of the members of our profession, it would tend in a great measure to obviate much of the sufferings of our patients, render the operations less disagreeable, and lastly to bring about a more successful result in the end. A question often asked us by our patients is, "why is it my teeth are so sensitive." Our answer, in many cases, is not at all satisfactory to him. He will persist in telling you the nerve of his tooth is exposed, and shudders at the idea of having you "dig at his tooth," (as he calls it,) by which you rake up a new nerve at each cut of the excavator.

Their is no doubt that this sensation is caused by conduction along the nerve filaments, radiating from the pulp cavity, into and between the tubuli, which is of course affected primarily by the continued shocks of the instrument upon the part.

Some of our most eminent authors on this subject, as for instance, Dr. C. A. Harris, say: This acute sensitiveness is due to the presence of nerve fibres. Also, Dr. Maynard and Professor Johnston, whose micro-