

alveolar process of any of the teeth, and the laceration which sometimes occurs, even in cases where the lancet has been employed, it is clear that the wisdom teeth being more clasped by gum than any other, owing to their anatomical situation, are most exposed to the accident of which we write.

In the lower jaw, broad and fleshy muscles, continuous with the gum, arise at the side of the wisdom teeth; and the mucous membrane here is much exposed to laceration. We cannot enlarge further upon this subject, but will give a case in our practice. We had to extract a left upper wisdom tooth for a lady. She objected to lancing, but we succeeded in separating the gum on the buccal sides. The forceps was applied; patient perfectly quiet, and the tooth was removed from its sockets, but judge of our surprise to find that though the tooth was out, and the entire roots exposed to view to their very end, that the attachment of the gum was so strong at the posterior side, which we had not lanced, that when the tooth was drawn downwards the mucous membrane covering the posterior edge, and even part of the floor of the palate bones was clearly loosened, and seemed inclined to come away with the tooth. The case was interesting, and before cutting away the gum, which had to be done before the tooth could be safely removed, we assured ourself of one fact, and that was, that the extraction of the tooth would necessarily lacerate a wide surface of membrane of the palate, unless the attachment was severed. This was only one of several cases in our own practice, and we have no doubt but that it is parallel to cases in the practice of others.

Any thick accumulation of tartar should be removed with a scaler before attempting to extract. Such a deposit may conceal a cavity into which the point of the forceps might crush, and fracture the crown of the tooth: at any time, however, tartar is in the way of the application of the instrument.

If in the administration of an anæsthetic, a cork is placed between the teeth to keep the jaws open, it is advisable to tie a strong string to it, in case it should slip down the patient's throat during inhalation. A patient swallowed a cork some years ago, while inhaling chloroform in a dentist's office, and died before it could be extracted.

We were more than ever struck with the value of starchy towels for chloroform, during a recent operation, in which Dr. Reddy