

**THE PHYSIOLOGY OF TEETH, POPULARLY  
APPLIED TO THEIR CARE AND PRESERVATION:  
THE TREATMENT NECESSARY TO  
INFANTILE DISEASES COINCIDENT WITH  
THEIR DEVELOPMENT; AND THE PREVENTION  
OF IRREGULARITY OF THE PERMANENT TEETH**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649375127

The physiology of teeth, popularly applied to their care and preservation: The Treatment Necessary to Infantile Diseases Coincident with Their Development; And the Prevention of Irregularity of the Permanent Teeth by Joseph Snape

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

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**JOSEPH SNAPE**

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THE TREATMENT NECESSARY TO

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AND

THE PREVENTION OF IRREGULARITY

OF THE PERMANENT TEETH;

WITH OBSERVATIONS ON THE DISEASES OF THE TEETH AND GUMS  
THE EXTRACTION OF TEETH, ETC., ETC.

AND

PRACTICAL REMARKS ON THE INSERTION OF  
ARTIFICIAL TEETH.



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SECOND EDITION.  
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BY JOSEPH SNAPP,  
SURGEON-DENTIST.

LONDON:  
LONGMAN AND CO.; GEORGE FRICHARD, CHESTER.

1853

## PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

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DURING the last few years, so many books on every branch of Dentistry have issued from the press, that it seems almost an absurdity to add another to the list. The fact is, however, that those which have been written for the use of the Profession, enter too much into detail to be of sufficient interest to obtain an attentive perusal by a general reader; and those which have been published in a more popular style, are generally wanting in that explanation which most persons require before they can rely, with full confidence, upon the advice given. It is not sufficient to say, "you must do so and so," without shewing WHY it should be done. A young lady, for instance, (one, perhaps, who has an opinion of her own,) takes up one of those books, and in the course of reading meets with the following sentence:—"In cleaning the teeth *cold water* should never be used, as it is sure to injure them."—"That I am sure it is not!" immediately exclaims

the fair reader:—"Grandpapa is now seventy-six—he has not lost a tooth; and he always uses cold water!" Perhaps, in mere opposition to the advice, she persists in the use of it, to the injury, if not the destruction, of many of her teeth;—ignorant of their being of a much more delicate texture than those of the old gentleman. Were it explained to the young lady, that within the substance of the hardest tooth are innumerable channels through which various little vessels pass;—that if cold water be applied, it may cause those channels to contract; in consequence of which, the fluids contained in the vessels will not freely circulate; and whenever circulation is impeded, inflammation is produced,—and that inflammation in the bony substance of a tooth almost invariably terminates in disease:—it is possible that she might for once conceive herself mistaken, and be convinced that "Grandpapa's teeth" are constitutionally so good, that in spite of the perils to which they have been exposed, they have still remained sound. At any rate, she will be afraid, for the future, intentionally to submit her own to similar danger.

My object in publishing this little Work, is to present (so far as it lies in my power) to the general reader, *a short rational view of the Physiology of the Teeth*, applied to their care and preservation; which, when we consider their uses, and

connexion with the general system, become evidently important. Our first chapter we have devoted to this purpose, and have shown, that a good set of teeth is the greatest ornament to the face, and that with such an ornament it is impossible for a countenance, however ordinary in other respects, ever to be decidedly plain. On the contrary, if the teeth are lost, diseased, or even discoloured, it is equally impossible for a face, however fair or well-proportioned, to appear handsome or pleasing;—that the loss of teeth offends not only the eye, but the ear,—a well-regulated set being indispensable to a correct and agreeable utterance;—that life and health depend upon the perfect or imperfect manner in which the teeth perform their office as organs of mastication;—and that, in some cases, remote organs of the body become deranged by sympathetically participating in their diseases.

The principles laid down, and the treatment recommended, in the remaining chapters, are such as I have, in practice, most successfully acted upon for years. Most of the cases given, came under my own observation; nor have I presented any from other writers for the want of not having seen similar ones, but simply that in the mouth of two or three witnesses the facts brought forward may be established. Aiming more at utility than at originality, I have quoted from any author whose observations coincided with my own; or when it



answered the purposes of my arrangement better, I have condensed his views,—feeling, that should I give my own, they would be a mere copy of his; and the probability would be, that they might not be so effectively or clearly expressed. Should my efforts be of service to any of my fellow creatures, I shall feel myself amply repaid.

CHESTER, 1840.

## PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

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THE Author has great pleasure in presenting a Second Edition of his little work to the public, having the satisfaction of knowing that the publication of the First Edition has been of considerable service to numbers of persons who have perused it. He has been written to by parties, who have benefited by it, from distant districts of this country, and many parts of the continent, and even from India; he has also the gratification of knowing that it has been of great service as a guide, when consultation with a scientific practitioner was impossible.

In issuing this Edition, the Author begs to state that the whole has been thoroughly revised, and much additional matter introduced—the chapter on artificial teeth has been considerably enlarged—and the character of the work altogether improved.

CHESTER, JAN., 1851.

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