

**ON THE LOSS OF TEETH;
AND ON THE BEST MEANS
OF RESTORING THEM**

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THOMAS HOWARD

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AND ON THE BEST MEANS
OF RESTORING THEM**

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LOSS OF TEETH;

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BEST MEANS OF RESTORING THEM.

BY
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LONDON.

" Avec de mauvaises dents jamais femme n'étoit belle,
Avec de jolies dents jamais femme n'étoit laide."

J. J. ROUSSEAU.

LONDON:
SIMPKIN AND MARSHALL,
STATIONERS' COURT.

1858.

W. A. CANTON
of Medicine

PREFACE.

THE want of a concise and familiar Treatise on the Teeth, containing information which may be useful to all those who have lost many of them, suggested the idea of this essay.

There is respecting the Teeth a degree of delicacy generally felt which prevents advice being given even where requisite, and this frequently occurs among intimate friends: in such cases, a recommendation to read this *Treatise* may lead to the most beneficial results.

The author would impress upon all who read, or in any way profit by this work, that it would be *an act of kindness to present it to any friend who may require the aid of a Dentist.*

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TOOTH-ACHE.

THERE are not any "ills which flesh is heir to" more excruciating or intolerable than, or which so completely incapacitate a person for business or pleasure as, Tooth-ache.

The pain produced by the exposure of the membrane of a tooth to the action of external irritants, is certainly one of the most excruciating to which the human system is liable. The sensation is perfectly *sui generis*, and it is, unfortunately, as unnecessary as it is difficult, to describe it; for few persons who have arrived at adult age, are so happy as to have escaped its attacks. Scarcely *tic-douloureux* itself is more agonizing for the moment, than a darting paroxysm of tooth-ache. It

is not therefore to be wondered at, that every new remedy which professes to cure it, should for a time be eagerly caught at.

The sympathetic affections to which it gives rise are exceedingly various and important; though it is only of late years that they have been properly understood, and the attention of medical men directed to their true source. Now, however, that these remote sympathies have excited a degree of interest more commensurate with their importance; so frequently are they found to occur, that practitioners are, on the other hand, in danger of attributing to this cause, diseases which have not the remotest connexion with it. It not unfrequently happens that parts the most remote become the apparent seat of pain, from the exposure of the nerve of a tooth. I have seen this occur not only in the face, over the scalp, in the ear, or underneath the lower jaw, but down the neck, over the shoulder, and along the whole length of the arm.

It will be readily understood, that irritation in different teeth will be attended by the occurrence of pain referred to, in corresponding situations, more or less remote from its true seat. No one of these is so constant and so distinctly marked, as the violent pain in the ear, produced by the exposed nerve of the inferior dens sapientiae. This is so general an occurrence as to constitute in many cases the only criterion of the true seat of pain, where several contiguous teeth are decayed. Cases of true ear-ache are comparatively rare; and I am convinced that where no actual disease of that origin exist, the pain referred to will be found, very generally, to arise from a decayed inferior dens sapientiae; and hence, it often happens that blisters behind the ear, and hot applications to that part, produce only a partial and deceptive relief, the pain returning with increased severity, as soon as the mind ceases to be amused by these ineffectual attempts at removing it. The only true remedy to be relied

upon as a permanent cure, is to have the decayed teeth well stopped at an early stage of decay.

It most frequently happens that the majority of persons who are actively engaged pay little attention to their teeth, until they become painful.

The evils arising from this neglect are too frequently the loss of many, or, in *some cases, all the teeth*, which, by an early visit to the Dentist, might have been preserved.

PRESERVING THE TEETH,
BY
STOPPING OR PLUGGING THEM.

WHEN decay or caries make their appearance in a tooth, HOWEVER SMALL THE APERTURE MAY BE, IT SHOULD BE PLUGGED WITHOUT DELAY. It is a great error to postpone this until the tooth is painful, as the sooner the