

A GUIDE FOR THE PROPER TREATMENT OF THE TEETH

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A Guide for the Proper Treatment of the Teeth by W. Kencely Bridgman

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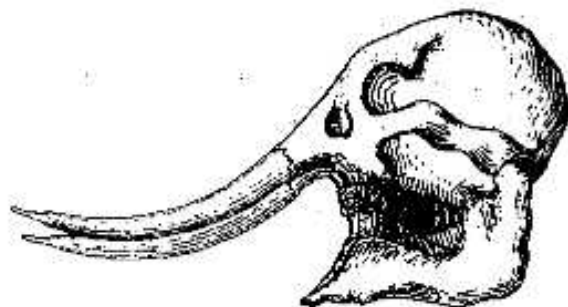
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W. KENCELY BRIDGMAN

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PROPER TREATMENT
OF THE TEETH**



ELEPHANT



COW

(Ruminantia)



GIRAFFE



TIGER

(Carnivora)



WOLF



RABBIT

(Rodentia)



SQUIRREL

Etched by W. A. Bridgman

A GUIDE
FOR THE
PROPER TREATMENT OF THE TEETH,
WITH A VIEW TO
THEIR PRESERVATION:
CONTAINING A POPULAR
EXPLANATION OF THEIR STRUCTURE AND APPENDAGES,
WITH DIRECTIONS FOR
THE MANAGEMENT OF THEM IN HEALTH,
AND
TREATMENT IN DISEASE,
TOGETHER WITH
OBSERVATIONS ON THE BEST MEANS OF REPLACING
THEM WHEN LOST:

BY
W. KENCELY BRIDGMAN,
DENTIST.

LONDON: JOHN CHURCHILL.
NORWICH: MATCHETT; MUSKETT; FLETCHER; JARROLD & SONS.
LYNN: ATKIN; THREW.
WISBECH: JOHNSON, BRIDGE STREET.

MDCCKLVI.

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INTRODUCTION.

We learn from the writings of Herodotus, the first Grecian historian, that in the time of the ancient Egyptians, or more than two thousand years ago, "there were individual healers for each individual distemper, some taking charge of the disorders of the eyes, others of the head, and *others of those of the teeth;*" yet, although we are thus able to connect the practice of Dental Surgery with the remotest antiquity, as a science it is comparatively of but recent date. It was not until about the close of the seventeenth century, when the strong enthusiasm for experimental philosophy led to the establishment, in 1663, of the present Royal Society, and in 1666, of the Academy of Sciences in France, that we may date its revival in modern times, as a separate branch of medical practice. In the beginning of the eighteenth century, persons destined for the

profession of Dentists in France, were compelled to undergo a regular examination; but in England, as is well known, no such proof of qualification is required; and it is owing to the absence of this salutary test that so much discredit has been brought upon the profession. The early part of this century, not fifty years since, may be dated as the commencement of the present enlightened state of its professors: in 1803, the justly celebrated work of Fox, one of the first members of the medical profession, whose practical attention was exclusively devoted to the teeth, made its appearance; since which, numerous others by various eminent Professors, each adding to the then rapidly increasing fund of knowledge, have followed and been the means of elevating the character of the profession to its present highly advanced state. To so great a degree of perfection has it now attained, that the economy of the teeth and the nature and treatment of their diseases have become reduced to as perfect a system as are those embraced by the general practitioner. One of the principal remaining desiderata is to procure for the

public the same protection which is afforded in every other branch of medical practice. Until this be obtained, the only security against the injurious effects of empiricism, lies in the public being made acquainted with the proper management of the mouth, and the nature of the diseases of the teeth, as well as the principles upon which their treatment is founded. From this, another considerable advantage may also accrue—nothing but a knowledge of the structure of the teeth and the inevitable results of neglect or mismanagement of the mouth is required to ensure a more general attention to the care of them. With this view the following pages have been written; and although necessarily concise in the descriptions, it is hoped they are sufficiently clear and intelligible for the general reader.

The instructions for the management of the teeth invariably accord with the practice of the most eminent dentists of the day; while in the treatment of second dentition, attention is drawn to the form of the palate, as aiding materially in prognosticating the ultimate regularity and position of the teeth;

the value of this will be clearly perceived when fairly contrasted with all the uncertainty which has hitherto attended its general treatment. In connexion with this, in the different forms of the dental curve, the certain results peculiar to each are accounted for, and by thus referring to the cause, affords an opportunity of profiting from the adage that "prevention is better than cure."

69, *St. Giles' Street, Norwich,*
September, 1846.