

**THE STUDENT'S GUIDE
TO DENTAL ANATOMY
AND SURGERY**

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The Student's Guide to Dental Anatomy and Surgery by Henry Sewill

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BY
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PREFACE.

No department of physiology or surgery has of late years made greater progress than that connected with the teeth, and this advance has been necessarily attended by a corresponding increase in the literature of the subject, which has now become so voluminous as to form a source of embarrassment to those who are entering upon a course of dental education. Under these circumstances the projectors of the "Students' Guide" manuals have considered a work on Dental Anatomy and Surgery a desirable addition to the series. It is designed that these manuals should be free from needless technicalities; that they should facilitate the labours of the student; and that whilst each volume—although presenting merely an outline of the subject—should be complete in itself, it should at the same time lead the reader to desire, and direct him in seeking, the fuller knowledge afforded by more extended treatises. These designs I have striven to accomplish in this volume.

It must, however, not be supposed that the student can profitably peruse even the most rudimentary text book on any special branch of physiology or surgery

without an adequate knowledge of the fundamental principles of those sciences; and evidently it can but confuse him to encounter such terms as "nucleus" and "cell," or "inflammation" and "abscess," unless he have a clear conception of their signification. Such knowledge must be obtained previously from elementary works on physiology and surgery.

Whilst in a work of this kind it is essential that, as far as practicable, facts only should be laid before the student, it is not possible to avoid altogether the discussion of controverted points, or at least the description of subjects that have as yet been insufficiently investigated. Among these subjects must be placed the development of the teeth. The description of this process which is found in physiological text books, even the latest editions, is entirely based upon the investigations of Goodsir, which were published by him in the "Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal," in the year 1838. Since that date the subject has been investigated by numerous physiologists, among whom may be specially mentioned Marcusen, Dursy, Kölliker, and Waldeyer, and they are agreed with regard to the main facts of the process. Aided by the advance of microscopical science since the time of Goodsir, they have traced the phenomena of dental evolution from a period of embryonic life much earlier than that at which it was supposed to commence by that renowned physiologist, and have thus necessarily overthrown much of his theory.

Messrs. Legros and Magitot have issued the latest

monograph on the subject—a most elaborate and minute description, entirely based upon original observations—and the corroboration it receives from previous investigations, leaves no doubt that it is substantially accurate. The section which I have in this manual devoted to the development of the teeth is merely a summary of the work of these physiologists.

The histogenesis of the dental tissues—the changes which take place in the tooth-germ by which its elements are gradually converted into these tissues—has been, like the preceding subject, investigated by numerous physiologists, and like it has given rise to considerable difference of opinion. The majority of more recent observers (Lent, Kölliker, Marcusen, Huxley, Robin, Magitot, Tomes, and Waldeyer) are, however, in accord with regard to essential points, and in the account which I have given I have attempted to epitomize the main facts elucidated by these authorities without entering upon controverted topics.

The theory of the etiology and pathology of caries which I have adopted, is entirely based upon generally admitted facts; it is that which I believe can alone be arrived at by reasoning upon such facts; it is that which recently has been enunciated by the best authorities, and eventually must be, in my opinion, universally accepted. It will be perceived that decay of the teeth is a process entirely dissimilar to caries of bone, and that although the term caries is retained for

the sake of convenience, it is not really indicative of the true character of the disease.

No more than passing reference has been made to those injuries and diseases of the mouth and jaws that are not intimately associated with dental pathology. Although these affections necessarily fall much under the notice of the dental surgeon, who is therefore required to possess a knowledge of their nature, their discussion belongs more properly to works on general surgery than to those devoted entirely to dental subjects.

A knowledge having been obtained of the principles upon which operative procedures are carried out, and of the materials and instruments employed, the student cannot commence too soon to acquire skill by practice and experiment. This practice is easily obtained by the dental student. He may begin by plugging with tin foil cavities cut in bone or ivory or in extracted teeth, each stopping after completion being carefully broken up to discover in what detail it has failed, or in what direction it is capable of improvement. In the same way such operations as capping the pulp and fang-filling may also be practised. As soon as the student can with rapidity and certainty fill difficult cavities in extracted teeth fixed in a vice, he may safely proceed to operate upon simple cavities in the mouth of the living subject. Similar remarks may be made with regard to the operation of extraction. The anatomy of the teeth and of the parts around being understood, the student may proceed to apply the

forceps to the different kinds of teeth, and familiarize himself with the mode in which the instrument is held, the tooth grasped, and the force applied. Every student should subsequently go through a course of extracting operations on the dead subject, opportunities for which are afforded at every school of medicine.

Of the illustrations some are original, some are copied, and some are borrowed from works the property of the publishers. Those illustrating the development of the teeth are copied from Messrs. Legros and Magitot's monograph. For some of the most valuable I am indebted to the admirable works of Messrs. Tomes, Mr. Christopher Heath, and Mr. Salter. Figs. 33, 35, and figs. 73 to 77, are taken by permission from the "Transactions of the Odontological Society." Among the original engravings, those in the sections on preparing cavities and gold filling, have been most kindly contributed by my friend Mr. Howard Mummery. The cuts of the instruments have been supplied by the eminent and well-known firm of Ash and Sons, of 7, Broad Street, Golden Square.

6, WIMPOLE STREET, W.

Feb. 1876.

