

**RETENTION IN THE MAXILLARY ANTRUM OF AN IRON BOLT
THREE-EIGHTHS OF AN INCH IN THICKNESS AND ONE
AND FIVE-EIGHTHS INCHES IN LENGTH FOR A
PERIOD OF FOUR YEARS WITHOUT IMPOR-
TANT UNPLEASANT SYMPTOMS.***

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The patient, Mr. W. M. C., an electrician, 36 years old, came with the following history:

In February, 1903, while romping with a boy, he was thrown forcibly against the lock of a screen door inflicting a wound along the infraorbital ridge, but without producing any disturbance whatever of the eye. The wound through the soft tissues was closed with four stitches by the family physician who did not apprehend that any injury had been sustained by the bony structures beneath.

There was some bleeding from the nose at the time of the accident, but no significance was attached to it. The external wound healed promptly by first intention and there never developed at any subsequent time any evidence of a purulent accumulation within the antrum. For a few weeks, two years after the injury the patient suffered somewhat with what he called facial neuralgia on the injured side, but it passed off completely without creating any suspicion of a foreign body.

After the accident it was discovered that the screen door lock had disappeared and a search was instituted for it, but without avail. About two years ago, the patient observed that the two posterior molar teeth of the upper jaw on the injured side were becoming loose, and this condition gradually became more marked until in October, 1907, more than four years after the injury, the patient with his fingers extracted the two loosened teeth and then discovered a hard foreign body presenting at the opening thus produced. After a considerable amount of speculation as to the nature of this unsuspected intruder the bolt was easily removed by the astonished patient, who was then able to explain for the first time the mysterious disappearance of the screen door lock after the violent collision several years ago.

The case is one of interest, as it illustrates the high degree of toleration of foreign bodies which the maxillary antrum may endure.

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