

An improved tooth brush.

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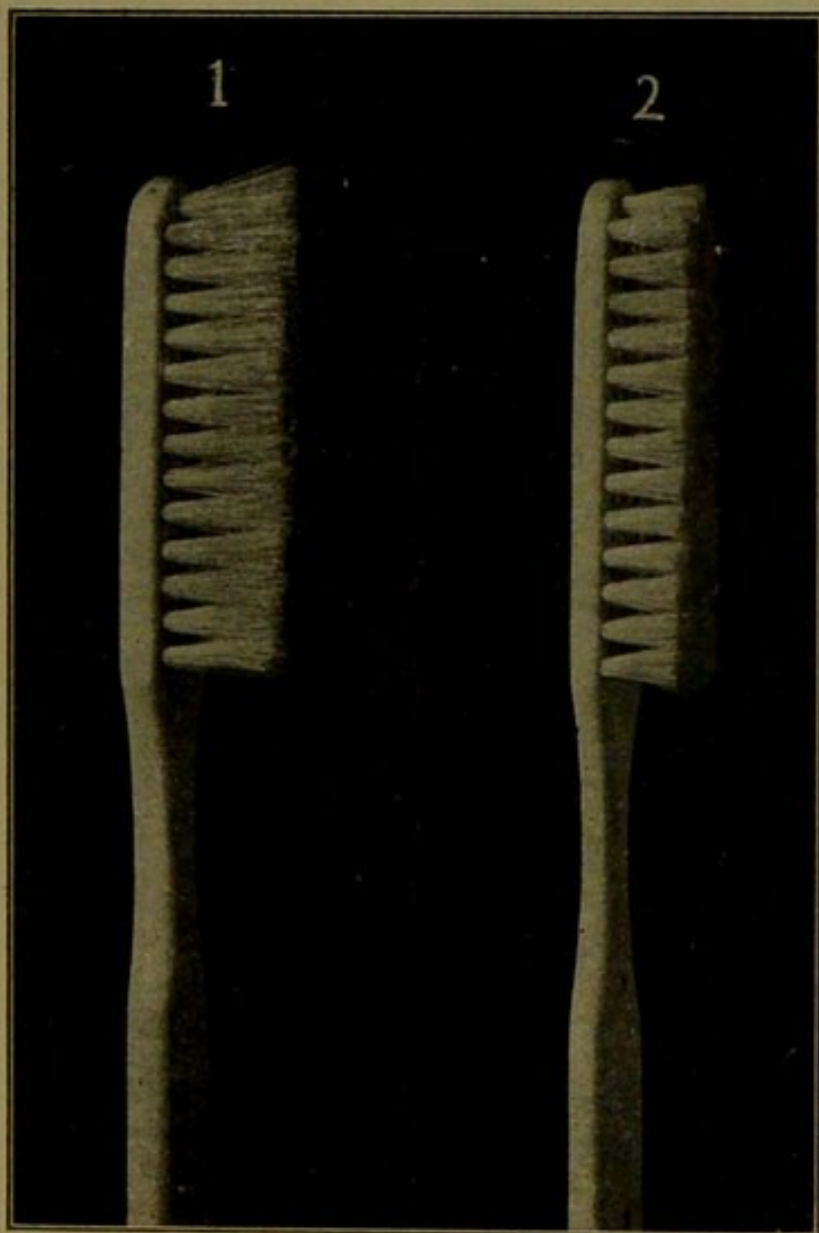
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An Improved Tooth Brush.

To the Editor of The Gazette:

The advice is often given to use a tooth brush with an up and down stroke. In this



way the teeth may be readily scrubbed, but in an ordinary tooth brush the bristles are so long and soft that they bend up instead

of doing what is required. A scrubbing brush with bristles of the same length proportionally would not be approved. Short and stiff bristles are needed for cleaning surfaces and exploring crevices. In the mouth there is hardly room between the teeth and the cheek for the free use of the up and down stroke. It is well known that if a brush is too soft it may be made stiffer, and even too stiff, by cutting down the bristles. If this were done with an ordinary tooth brush it would gain the stiffness required to reach the deep crevices, and the brush, being thus made considerably smaller, could be more conveniently applied in the narrow quarters behind and around the molars. The bristles may be shortened by using a pair of good scissors, and making many small cuts or clippings. It takes considerable time, and the final result is seen in figs. 1 and 2. I have used this kind of brush for five years or more and desire to recommend it in your instructive pages. The experiment should be tried with a soft brush, as shortening bristles is apt to make them too stiff.

Yours respectfully,

ADONIRAM B. JUDSON, M.D.