

## Question and Answer Department\*

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*Question:* I am treating a case of malocclusion in which the mesio-distal relationship is correct but both dentures display irregularities within the individual arches. At a certain stage of treatment I found that the median line of the lower appeared to the left side of the median line of the upper to the extent of over half the width of the lower incisor. This condition was not present when the case was started. Can you suggest what might have caused this?

*Answer:* If there is any question regarding your case analysis as to existence of this condition before you started treatment, read the article entitled, "A Discussion of Inharmony of the Mid-central Lines of the Maxillary and Mandibular Dentures," by Dr. R. H. W. Strang in the January, 1933 issue of the *Angle Orthodontist*.

This shifting of the median line during treatment may often be produced by unintentionally torquing the crowns of some of the posterior anchor teeth. For example, if the median line of the lower arch becomes displaced to the left of the upper, there may be (a) a tipping of the crown of the lower right molar toward the buccal so that the buccal inclines of the buccal cusps of the lower, in occlusion with the lingual inclines of the buccal cusps of the upper, cause a shifting of the mandible to the left; or, (b) the upper right molar crown may be torqued toward the lingual, under which condition the lingual inclined surfaces in occlusion with the buccal inclined surfaces of the lower would cause a similar shifting of the mandible; or, (c) the upper molar crown on the left side may be torqued to the buccal or the lower to the lingual, in either of which cases the changed relationships of the various inclined planes will produce a lateral movement of the mandible.

\*Questions bearing upon the theory or practice of orthodontia may be sent to the Question and Answer Department of the *Angle Orthodontist*, 184 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, New York.