Wisdom Teeth
By W. E. Hill
(Staged: 1927, by The German Playwright)

Sufferees from wisdom teeth love to tell all the horrid details. Here is poor Gladys, making use of the cracked ice bag to keep down the swelling. She’s telling her young man all about how the tooth was imbedded in a pound of Mrs. Hodge’s meat loaf and how she nearly fainted every time the mallet struck home.

The savagery. Florence was given a local anesthetic, which has, for the time being, slightly paralyzed her tongue. The taxi driver will do well if he comes within a mile of where Florence’s home is. He thinks she has been drinking and is very unsympathetic.

Dr. Gruesome, the genial dental surgeon, is killing a nerve, and such a nerve it is! It answers right back every time the electric drill burrows into it. “As unique a typed person,” gurgles the frenzied patient from somewhere behind the rubber dam, meaning as you may have guessed, “That hurts pretty bad, doctah.”

Miss Agnes Augustin is Dr. Goeger’s assistant. Agnes answers the phone and tells Mrs. Hodge or Mrs. Podge that though Dr. Goeger has most of his patients, she can have an appoint-ment at 8:15 on Tuesday morning, or at 3:30 p.m. on the following Friday.

The dentist’s waiting room, where the possessor of a restless wisdom tooth is now waiting beside the dentist’s little one-foot shelf of literary gems. “Friendship’s Garland,” volume ten, from “Famous American Statemen”; Shakespeare’s “Tempest,” and a copy of Browning are here for those who crave the classic in literature. A 1926 copy of “Pum and a book of war cartoons are also on hand.

Dr. Pullen, the dental surgeon, going after an impacted wisdom tooth bored with a mallet and chisel. Miss Settia, the assistant, is so hard to hold the patient’s mouth intact if he squirms. The last hundred blows are in process and the patient, who up to now has been very quiet, is beginning to show that he is feeling a little sore. Miss Settia is a natural blonde or not, in thinking up painful ways to still dentists.

Survivors of a wisdom tooth operation have to do all their heavy chewing with their front teeth, in order not to disturb the yawning cavity behind. This gives them a slightly rabid appearance when eating.