

(3) Congenital teeth have probably little or no prognostic significance as regards the bodily or mental vigor of the infant carrying them.

(4) The teeth usually met with are lower incisors, but sometimes upper incisors may be seen, and very rarely molars of either upper or lower jaw. Other facial or buccal malformations may occasionally be met with.

(5) They are caused by premature occurrence of the processes which normally lead to the cutting of the milk teeth; in a few cases it would seem that the anomaly is due to a true ectopia of the dental follicle and its contained tooth.

(6) In a few cases a hereditary history has been established.

(7) As congenital teeth are usually incomplete and ill-developed, and likely to be more an inconvenience than an advantage to the infant, they are best removed soon after birth, an operation which can be easily, and, except in very rare instances, safely, performed.

(8) The occurrence of premature teeth in certain well-known historical personages is an interesting fact, the importance of which has been much exaggerated.

Under pathogenesis he gives as the predisposing causes :

(1) Ectopia.

(2) Imperfect development of tooth and absence of fang to fix it deeply.

(3) Too early deposit of salts.

(4) Atrophic state of gum.

(5) Intra-follicular inflammation and ulceration of gum.

Under frequency of occurrence, Paris Maternity, out of 17,578 new-born infants, 1858-1858, three had teeth—one in 6,000.

In 20,000 births Blot had not seen an instance.

Besnier and Gueniot regarded them as very common.

The truth lies between the two extremes. In Dr. Ballantyne's paper he has gathered together from literature some seventy cases, and he says that doubtless not a few have escaped notice.

I will give part of the doctor's historical section in which he names the famous personages, Richard III., Louis XIV., Richelieu, Mirabeau, and Mazarin. Shakespeare, in *King Richard III.*, Act II., Sc. 4, makes the Duchess of York say :

"Marry, they say my uncle grew so fast
That he could gnaw a crust at two hours old ;
'Twas full two years ere I could get a tooth."

Also in *Act IV.*, Sc. 4, of the same play Queen Margaret says :

"That dog that had his teeth before his eyes."