

to a great extent, within the control of the individual is in regard to the teeth. All caries of the teeth begins from the outside, no such thing as internal caries having ever been demonstrated; hence, if the surfaces could be kept absolutely clean, no decay could take place, however poor the texture of the teeth. This is, of course, impossible, but much towards such a desirable end can be attained by attention to hygienic rules. Parents often ask their dentists and medical attendants with reference to their babies: "When ought teeth to be cleaned?". The answer assuredly is: "As soon as there are teeth." A very small toothbrush charged with some precipitated chalk, flavored with an aromatic drug to make it pleasant, is perhaps the best means—not a towel, which only removes the secretion from the labial and lingual surfaces and not from between the teeth where decay is most rife. Yet how few children's teeth are so treated, and how rarely the habit of doing it for themselves when they are old enough is inculcated. But, if it be acquired, the very desirable result is likely to follow of an immunity from dental trouble—at all events to any large extent. Later on something more can be done by passing a piece of waxed dental floss silk, which can be obtained of most chemists, between the teeth every day, and the value of this can be easily demonstrated after thoroughly using the toothbrush by passing the silk between the teeth, when a certain amount of accumulated matter will be brought away. "Do toothpicks do harm or good?" is another question often asked. They may do harm if abused, undoubtedly, by causing irritation of the gum between two teeth and its subsequent absorption; and, if made of wood, splinters are liable to be left behind, which have, in many recorded instances, caused even the loss of a tooth; but used judiciously they are of great value in routing the attacking forces in caries—namely, accumulations of food and mucous secretions. It has been urged against them that they might dislodge a stopping. But if a stopping is so insecure it must be faulty, and the sooner it is replaced the better, for decay, due to the impossibility of keeping the surface clean, must be going on underneath it.—*Lancet*.

REMOVAL OF BOTH OVARIES IN THE THIRD MONTH OF GESTATION; DELIVERY AT TERM. —An interesting communication by M. Polaillon to the Académie de Médecine has reference to a woman who, in spite of a double ovariectomy performed in the third month of pregnancy, was, nevertheless, safely delivered at term. The history of the case is briefly as follows: First symptoms of the existence of an ovarian cyst appeared at the age of twenty-three, the patient being nulliparous. At the age of twenty-nine, menstruation having ceased for several months and symptoms suggestive of early pregnancy having appeared, severe pains in the abdomen suddenly developed. Examination revealed the presence of an enormous ovarian cyst, probably suppurating, the state of the patient being so serious that, despite the suspicion of pregnancy, it was decided to perform ovariectomy at once. At the operation M. Polaillon came upon a large cyst of the left ovary, adherent to the intestine and to the fallopian tube of the same side. The adhesions were ruptured, the proceeding giving rise to profuse hemorrhage. The left ovary having been removed, it was found that the right tube was the seat of the hemorrhage, and that the right ovary, which had attained the size of an apple, was likewise affected with cystic degeneration. The right organ was in its turn removed. Recovery proceeded satisfactorily and the woman was in due time delivered, the labor presenting no unusual features and the placenta being normal. The cicatricial line was not injuriously distended during the evolution of pregnancy. The lesson deduced from this case by M. Polaillon is that pregnancy may continue after the removal of the upper portions of the broad ligaments and despite the interference with the uterine and placental circulations entailed by the suppression of the superior uterine blood-vessels. He attributes the excessive hemorrhage which occurred during the operation to the extra vascularity of the parts due to the gravid condition of the uterus.—*Lancet*.

ALUMINIUM is to be used in the construction of artificial limbs, a use to which it seems to be particularly well adapted owing to its great strength and lightness.