

cation of the patient. Mrs. A. B. is the mother of seven children, of highly neurotic temperament, and subject to these attacks on exposure to cold and dampness, or on becoming greatly fatigued. The attack described was brought on by exposure to draughts while over-heated. These attacks are, therefore, of the nature of suppressio-menstruum, and the santonin relaxes the engorged uterus. I have used santonin in a number of other cases of similar nature, and in every instance with most happy results.

A SUBSTITUTE FOR DECALCIFIED BONE IN SENN'S DISCS.—Baracz (*Centrabl. fur Chir.*) states that in experimenting with Senn's discs, the idea struck him that decalcified bone might be replaced by some other and more readily available material, which could be used by the practical surgeon without much preparation, and consequently with less trouble. After trials of numerous edible vegetables, such as potatoes, turnips, and carrots, from which sections of firm, flexible, and moist discs can be obtained, the author found that the most suitable substance for his purpose was afforded by the Swedish turnip. Sections of this vegetable, it is stated, form a reliable material for use in gastro-enterostomy and in establishing intestinal anastomosis, and one which can be more readily obtained and prepared than decalcified bone. That sections of a fresh turnip present a trustworthy substitute for decalcified bone is shown by the results of the author's experiments on animals, and also the success of an operation for gastro-enterostomy which he performed on the human subject early in May. The result of this operation, which was performed for the relief of carcinoma of the pylorus, had been very favorable.

LANCING THE GUMS.—In the *University Medical Magazine*, Dr. H. C. Woods makes the following statements about this procedure: Clinically, I am absolutely sure that I have seen convulsions, sick stomach, great restlessness, fever and various other functional disturbances in young children, immediately cured by the use of the gum-lancet, after the failure of various other well-directed measures for relief. Theoretically, I am in accord with Dr. Kirk, in believing that Dr. Forchheimer absolutely misses the point of the matter, by his failure to understand that the good achieved is

not due to the local blood-letting or to the relief of the inflammation of the gum, but to the removal of the backward pressure upon an extraordinarily sensitive, and, at such times, congested nerve-pulp. As was long ago pointed out by Dr. J. W. White, at the period of eruption the roots of the teeth are yet incomplete. "Instead of the conical termination and minute foramen, which characterize a perfected tooth, the aperture is nearly as large as the root itself, and thus when the sensitive pulp composed of connective tissue, blood-vessels and nerves, is in a condition of irritation because of the morbid activity of the process of dentition—augmented vascular and nervous action—there may be produced a hyperæmia sufficient, possibly, to cause the protrusion of a part of the mass from the incomplete aperture of the root, giving abundant cause for extreme constitutional disturbance."

I have myself seen a seemingly incurable epilepsy in an adult permanently cured by the removal of a persistent milk or first dentition tooth. Amaurosis and various other conditions in the adult, are well known to be the result of irritation of the trigeminal nerve by faulty teeth. How much more evil is to be expected from teeth irritation in the child!

In conclusion, I reaffirm that whatever the theory in the matter may be, I am positive that gum-lancing is a most important therapeutic measure. It is essential, however, that it should be thorough and with the object of dividing the dense tissues that bind down the teeth.

SLOW PULSE.—Among the causes of slow pulse Dr. D. W. Prentiss, in *The Doctor's Weekly*, enumerates the following, saying that the causes which produce slow pulse may be classified as follows:—

1. Diseases or injuries to the nerve centres, producing either irritation of the pneumogastric or paralysis of the sympathetic (accelerator) nerves of the heart.
2. Diseases or injury of pneumogastric nerve, increasing its irritability.
3. Disease or injury of the sympathetic nerves of the heart, paralyzing them.
4. Disease of cardiac ganglia, by which the influence of pneumogastric nerve preponderates.