

guesswork and scientific analysis, it is only within the last few years that its etiology has been investigated with any pretence of true pathological system. Still more recently do we seem to be reaching the problem of treatment. It has been generally felt that the most commonly accepted name of the disease is a misnomer, suggesting, as the author puts it, "erroneous etiology," as well as "erroneous treatment," and that the proposed substitute, "interstitial gingivitis," though it has the philologic objections of uniting Greek and Latin terms, does not imply erroneous views as to etiology, pathology, prognosis and treatment. So far, this is a step in advance in nomenclature. The author maintains that the disorder is "a local inflammatory condition of the gums, tending to accelerate their normal tendency to disappearance at certain periods of stress, or involution, of which involution the changes produced by old age are a type." The uric acid hypothesis is now losing its force. It is but one of a number of local expressions of constitutional defect. Prominent among etiologic factors which have to be reckoned with are pathogenic germs. There is no specific germ which is capable of producing the disease itself, and, furthermore, the pyorrhea stage is merely a complication due to pyogenic germ infection of the already diseased gums. Dogs afford good substitutes for the study of the disease. It is impossible within our limits to do justice to the merits of this work, but the following list of contents will give a comparatively clear conception of the careful manner in which Dr. Talbot has investigated the subject. There are sixteen well-written chapters divided as follows: 1. History; 2. Introduction; 3. Transitory Structures—the Jaws, the Alveolar Process, Periosteum and Peridental Membrane. Do glands exist in epithelial and peridental membrane? Bone-building and absorption. 4. Theories of the Disease; 5. Uric Acid; 6. Inorganic Salts; 7. Heredity and Environment; 8. Degeneracy; 9. Neurotic, Diathetic and Degenerate Children; 10. Interstitial Gingivitis in Dogs; 11. Mercurial Interstitial Gingivitis in Dogs; 12. Bacteriology; 13. Scorbutic Interstitial Gingivitis in Man; 14. Interstitial Gingivitis in Man from Metallic and other Drug action; 15. Conclusions—Pathogenesis of Interstitial Gingivitis, Endarteritis Obliterans, Absorption of the Alveolar Process. Pyorrhea Alveolaris from Interstitial Gingivitis, Constitutional Effect of Pyorrhea Alveolaris, Caloric Deposits; 16. Treatment. It is gratifying to observe the importance the author places upon prophylaxis, more attention to the preventive than the corrective. The gums are too much overlooked in our daily practice. Vigorous stimulation with the finger, as emphasized so repeatedly and so long ago by Drs. Barrett, Tomes and others, is insisted upon. An index of authors is appended to the work. The appearance of the book is a great