## DOMINION DENTAL JOURNAL

enough, repeat the same process, only this time add a teaspoonful of sulphuric acid to the melted wax before pouring; this will make the wax clean and yellow, as when first made by the bees. It will not do to pour it into cold or even warm water, it must be either hot or boiling. If the above directions are carefuly followed, there is no wax so dirty but what may be made just as good as ever. Wax can be toughened by adding either resin, Burgundy pitch, or, what is better, Venice turpentine.

## Pyorrhœa Alveolaris.\*

By G. ED. HVNDMAN, D.D.S., L.D.S., Sherbrooke, Que.

Pyorrhœa alveolaris, commonly known as "Riggs' disease," is a suppurative inflammation of the gums and peridental membrane, attended in acute cases with the destruction of the alveolar process, and resulting in the loosening and finally in the loss of the teeth.

The first indication to the patient of a pathological condition is an uneasy sensation in the gums and teeth, which, if not attended to with care, soon becomes painful, and the margin of the gums appear decidedly imflamed and bleed from slight causes.

As the disease progresses the inflammation extends deeper into the tissues, and they become congested with venous blood, swollen and have a tendency to separate from the necks of the teeth.

The separation of the gums from the cervical portions of the teeth gives rise to the formation of small sulci or pockets, thus permitting the retention of pus and micro-organisms, which become a further source of irritation to the peridental membrane and alveoli.

As the destruction of the alveolaris progresses the teeth become loose, and if the teeth affected by the disease be the incisors, they will usually protrude and separate from each other. There will be a viscid, fetid discharge, which will cause a disagreeable taste, and give the breath a very offensive odor. The gums will be of a purple or livid hue, with congested margins, which are sometimes denuded of epithelium, giving them a polished appearance. The roots usually become coated with calculus, which is of a

\*Thesis presented at Examination for L.D.S.

144