

Although Dr. Beaumont's experiments proved, that the presence in the stomach of any substance which is difficult of digestion interferes with the solution of food that would otherwise be reduced, still may not this foreign body act upon the membrane, and cause the peristaltic action to be increased, hence facilitate, at least for a time, digestion, as appears to be in the case to which we alluded.

Foreign bodies have remained a length of time in the stomach, and on *post-mortem* examination have been found, as reported of a sailor in the May number of the *Cosmos*, and also one some months since in this city. There was found in the stomach of a lunatic, a jack-knife, several pieces of coal and a portion of oakum. How long they had been there, could not be told. The oakum seemed to be the cause of the death. Shall report if anything serious occurs to the lady referred to. Fearing death might ensue, she felt desirous to return to her people in England, but her physician thought it not wise, for fear during sea-sickness the plate might be thrown from the stomach, and lodge in some part before it could pass up and out of the mouth; hence she still remains, hoping all will end well.

DENTAL HYGIENE.

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Read before the Ontario Dental Society.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN.—In attempting to comply with your request to read an essay at our present Session, I would not, for a moment, assume the position of teacher to the members of this association; and have made no effort to prepare either an elaborate or learned thesis, but have simply collected a few facts that have become impressed upon my mind during a period of ten years continuance, more for the purpose of causing discussion than for the sake of presenting anything very new pertaining to our science.

The subject of *Dental Hygiene*, upon which I purpose offering a few suggestions, is, in a physiological point of view, not only of peculiar interest, but in its relation to the benefit of the rising generation, it must be considered of paramount importance.

The extreme early age in life in which many of the diseases incident to the teeth make their appearance, and the almost universal prevalence of these diseases amongst the inhabitants of this continent, is a fact of sufficient importance to excite the interest, not only of every one who makes any pretensions to a knowledge of the healing art, but also of every parent who assumes the responsibility of rearing a family.