

Abstracts.

"Decay never occurs on any surface which may be and is kept clean. The fissures and pits which cannot always be kept clean by the patient, should be filled on the first indications of decay. Here is preventive dentistry in a nutshell."—GARRETT NEWKIRK in *Items of Interest*.

J. R. Bell advises the use of Phillip's milk of magnesia in cases of erosion or decalcification of enamel at cervical border from acid condition of secretions. A teaspoonful taken into the mouth at bedtime and rinsed around the teeth will form an antacid coating sufficient to protect them for several hours. It may be prescribed three times daily after meals in severe cases.—*Items of Interest*.

Dr. L. G. Noel advocates combinations of rubber and gold as useful for many cases in bridge-work. The gold shells investing the teeth used as abutments are connected by soldering in a strong bar of platinum and iridium. To this bar ordinary teeth are attached by means of rubber. No model of the gum is required, as the rubber should have no bearing upon the gum. This makes a stronger bridge than one made in the usual way, besides presenting fewer crevices for collecting fluids and food.—*Items of Interest*.

Prof. L. L. Skelton, at the opening of the Chicago College of Dental Surgery, dealt very forcibly with the question of "Practical Dental Education." In this age of rush and gold-getting, students are impatient of any studies not bearing directly on the actual practice of dentistry, forgetting that a practical education must consist of both theory and manual training. It is pathology that makes dentistry a profession and not a trade, and to understand the pathological we must know the normal or physiological. It will not be enough to understand the anatomy and physiology of the oral cavity alone, as we are frequently called on to cope with reflex manifestations of diseased conditions in organs distant from the seat of pain. Take, for example, the excruciating toothache due to certain concretions on the teeth and associated with a uric acid diathesis; no local treatment of the teeth will succeed in relieving this disordered condition. The dentist who can intelligently appreciate and remove distant causes of local pain is the man who will be looked on as eminently practical.—*Dental Review*.

Dr. Sidney S. Stowell in a thoughtful paper read before the First District Dental Society of the State of New York, and published in the January *Cosmos*, deals with the subject of "Local Exercise and Dietetic Influence upon the Teeth." Taking as his