

over, he discovers that one of the teeth has an abscess formed at the apex of its root, that it is discharging through the alveolar process (the jaw), and that, as is not unfrequently the case, the abscess has involved two or three teeth in the difficulty. Now does it seem possible or even reasonable that the permanent teeth, the pulps of which are in the jaws at the time, should escape infection? In those cases which have come under our own immediate observation we have universally found that where the temporary teeth have been very much diseased the permanent ones have been sufficiently influenced to cause them at an early period to decay. This is one of the many reasons we can give why the teeth of adults decay at so early an age.

To operate for children is seldom if ever the most pleasing duty devolving upon the dental surgeon; and yet, somehow, parents are not, as a general rule, willing to compensate him for the trouble he has been put to, or for the good he has done the teeth, simply, as we suppose,—from what we hear, because “they are only the first set.”

From what we have said it will be seen that we place a high value upon the temporary teeth as intimately connected with the happiness of every being, and that they are worthy of far more attention than they usually receive.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

#### EXTRACTS FROM LIVINGSTON'S TRAVELS IN AFRICA.

“The zebra, giraffe, eland, and kukman have been seen mere skeletons from decay of their teeth, as well as from disease. The carnivora, too, become diseased and mangy; lions become lean and perish miserably by reason of the decay of the teeth. When a lion becomes too old to catch game, he frequently takes to killing goats in the villages; a woman or a child happening to go out at night falls a prey too; and, as this is his only source of subsistence now, he continues it. From this circumstance has arisen the idea that the lion, when he has once tasted human flesh, loves it better than any other. A man-eater is invariably an old lion; and when he overcomes his fear of man so far as to come to villages for goats, the people remark, ‘His teeth are worn, he will soon kill men.’ They at once acknowledge the necessity of instant action, and turn out to kill him. \* \* \* The Bahimpe tribe knock out both upper and lower front teeth as a mark of distinction. \* \* \* The people who came with Sheakondo to our bivouac had their teeth filed to a point by way of beautifying them, though those which were left untouched were always the whitest. Other tribes also adopt this same custom, and Livingston observes, in relation to the people of Tamsja, that ‘they file their teeth to a point, which makes the smile of the women frightful, as it reminds one of the grin of an alligator.’ \* \* \*

“All the Batoka tribes follow the curious

custom of knocking out the upper front teeth at the age of puberty. This is done by both sexes; and though the under teeth, being relieved from the attrition of the upper, grow long and somewhat bent out, and thereby cause the under lip to protrude in a most unsightly way; no young woman thinks herself accomplished until she has got rid of the upper incisors. This custom gives all the Batoka an uncouth old-man-like appearance. Their laugh is hideous, yet they are so attached to it that even Sebastianus was unable to eradicate the practice. He issued orders that none of the children living under him should be subjected to the custom by their parents, and disobedience to his mandates was usually punished with severity; but notwithstanding this the children would appear in the streets without their incisors, and no one would confess to the deed.

“When questioned respecting the origin of this practice, the Batoka, reply that their object is to be like the oxen, and those who retain their teeth they consider to resemble zebras. Whether this is the true reason or not, it is difficult to say; but it is noticeable that the veneration for oxen which prevails in many tribes should here be associated with hatred to the zebra, as among the Bakwains; that this operation is performed at the same age that circumcision is in other tribes, and that here that ceremony is unknown.

“The custom is so universal that a person who has his teeth is considered ugly. The disparaging remark would be made respecting boys or girls who still retained their teeth, ‘Look at the great teeth!’ Some of the Makololo give a more factious explanation of the custom; they say that the wife of a chief, having in a quarrel bitten her husband’s hand, he, in revenge, ordered her front teeth to be knocked out, and all the men in the tribe followed his example; but this does not explain why they afterwards knocked out their own.

“A child who cut the upper front teeth before the under, was always put to death among the Bakaa, and, I believe, also among the Bakwains. \* \* \* The women here are in the habit of piercing the upper lip and gradually enlarging the orifice until they can insert a shell. The lip then appears drawn out beyond the perpendicular of the nose, and gives them a most ungracious aspect. \* \* \* This custom prevails throughout the country of the Maravi, and no one could see it without confessing that fashion had never led women to a freak more mad.”

Near Teto, on the Zambesi river, “the women have only a small puncture in the upper lip, in which they insert a small button of tin. The perforation is made by degrees, a ring with an opening in it being attached to the lip, and the ends squeezed gradually together. The pressure on the flesh between the ends of the ring causes its absorption, and a hole is the result. Children may be seen with the ring on the lip, but not yet punctured.”

#### LONDON DENTAL REVIEW.

Those who feel a deep interest in the advancement of Dental Science, will be gratified to learn that our English brethren after an ably contested struggle, have at last succeeded in establishing a *Dental College in London*. By the advertisement of this institution, we find that six professors constitute the Faculty. Dr. W. B. Richardson, who delivered a valuable course of lectures (extracts from which have been published in some of our magazines,) during the past winter, before the College of Dentists, occupies a chair in the institution. The following, from an able editorial, gives an encouraging account of the pleasant state of feeling between the hitherto hostile parties:—*The Dental Cosmos for Aug.*

“*Future Prospects.*—To those who have taken an interest in the progress of Dental Politics, the prospects of the profession at this moment must afford supreme satisfaction. The year 1850 has brought with it a success little anticipated, and hopes little hoped for. Animositities have been signally quelled; those who differ agree to differ in friendship; the tone of our literature has undergone improvement; personalities are well nigh extinguished; and from the peace which is thus being established, progress, liberal, refined, and steady, is the result.

“It must have been felt during the late disputes which have marked the organization of our chaotic body, that the exertions made to secure such organization were rather for the future than for the passing time. We know that this has been felt, and have heard many express the belief that the anxieties and labors to which they were being subjected, were but the bases of an after-structure, which, in their own time, would not appear before them. Without giving way to hopes over-sanguine, we feel that the dark side of the picture is not in reality so long to be dreaded. To us it seems that the realizations of a bright and useful future are at hand, and that those young men who are now actually before us in our work-rooms, are the coming representatives of a profession such as we have not yet seen in any country where dentistry is practised; a profession educated, liberal, and fraternal. The event which promises most towards this consummation is given out in the establishment of the School of Dental Science, now fully organized and announced. Nothing could be more opportune, nothing more beneficial than this organization. When, in our last, we briefly commented on the formation of this school, we were not prepared for the fulfillment of the engagement in that completeness in which we now accept it. The advantages of a complete school, with all the accessories required, are now placed within the reach of our students. The American Colleges, with their years of growth, are not more comprehensive. \* \* \*

“Meanwhile, it is an encouraging fact, that the public are not uninterested spectators of our progress, and that public opinion.