

membrane of the bronchial tubes; and with whatever disastrous effect it may act in these situations, he thinks we are justified, from what we know of its antiseptic properties, in concluding that its action upon the teeth must be beneficial. Moreover, this deposit takes place exactly in those positions where caries is most likely to arise, and on those surfaces of the teeth which escape the ordinary cleansing action of the brush. It is found interstitially, in all minute depressions, and filling the fissures on the coronal surfaces. It may be removed with scaling instruments from the surface of the enamel, but where it is deposited on dentine, this structure becomes impregnated and stained. Indeed, it is only where the enamel is faulty, and there is access to the dentine, that any true discoloration of the tooth takes place; but it is remarkable, he says, how the stain will penetrate through even minute cracks, provided the necessary attention to cleanliness be not exercised. The staining power of tobacco-oil may be seen when a deposit has taken place on the porous surface of tartar collected on the posterior surface of the inferior incisors. In this situation a shiny ebony appearance is occasionally produced. That tobacco is capable of allaying, to some extent, the pain of toothache is, he thinks, true; its effect being due, not only to its narcotising power, but also to its direct action upon the exposed nerve; and he is inclined to attribute the fact of the comparatively rare occurrence of toothache amongst sailors, in great measure, to their habit of chewing. He has been struck, in the case of one or two confirmed smokers who have come under his notice, by the apparent tendency which exists towards the gradual production of complete necrosis of carious teeth, and the various stages of death of the pulp, and death of the periosteum taking place without pain or discomfort to the patient. This condition may, of course, be brought about by a variety of influences; but in these special cases he is inclined to think that the presence of nicotine in the mouth has acted powerfully. The experience of other speakers in the subsequent discussion appeared to corroborate that of Mr. Hepburn, except that Mr. Oakley Coles thought the frequent changes of temperature probably injurious and tending to produce cracking of the enamel, and Mr. Arthur Underwood thought that smoking to the extent of injury to digestion tended to cause recession of the gums and otherwise to injure the nutrition of the teeth.

PUT MONEY IN THY PURSE.—A favourite theme with the medical-commencement orator is that ours is a profession and not a trade; the object of a trade being to make money and of a profession to do good to mankind. If it be meant by this that one is not liable to make money by the practice of physic, it is all very well; but if it be meant that one does not and ought not to try his best to do so, it is balderdash.

When any one enters upon the study of medicine he has precisely the same object in view which has the mechanic's apprentice or merchant's clerk. He means that his work as as soon as possible shall gain him a livelihood; he hopes for independence thereafter, and until he is chilled by disappointment has occasional visions of fortune farther on.

It is the sheerest nonsense to tell young men, and often old ones, too, who have raked and scraped their means together, and perhaps mortgaged their futures, to undergo the hardships of the benches and the perils of a student's boarding-house, that they have done so to fit themselves for a purely missionary work. They know that it is not so, and it is highly honourable that it is not so. "He that does not provide for his own household is worse than a heathen," were the words of one who also declared that "the greatest of these is charity."

The words of St. Paul are nowhere more applicable than to the profession of medicine. He knew full well that without money half the usefulness of the doctor is gone. He who is ever on the alert with the gifts of his services—or, what is a more common error, is careless in demanding proper recognition for his work—sins trebly—against himself, against his profession, and especially against those whom he thinks he serves. It may be his own affair when the doctor wrongs himself—albeit that besides money he loses, too, in respect—and if his wife's gown be faded, and if his children be out at elbows, it is her back and their arms and his eyes that are most offended; but he who enters the profession of medicine has duties to perform to the guild he has chosen.

Shall he always have money for his work? Shall he demand the full fees of the schedule irrespective of the condition of his patient? By no means. Such a declaration would be as silly as it would be inhumane. While all the giving of this world is not committed to the doctor, he has—especially if he be young—a special heritage in the poor, without whom clinics would stop and practice be a matter for graybeards only. But this is his opportunity, and he performs but his duty to himself when he embraces it. And again, while all the courtesies of the world are not committed to the doctor, he has his share to perform, and