

an interesting address on the bleaching of teeth by means of pyrozone. He pointed out that the pink discoloration was due to the permeation of the tubules by hæmoglobin from disintegrated red blood-corpuscles, while the browner stain was due to the deposit of hæmatin from disintegration of the hæmoglobin. The speaker showed in two tubes the difference between blood which had undergone disintegration and that which had not done so, the former being clearer and more translucent, the latter murky and grumous. He then painted to a bright red a sheet of white blotting paper with the blood containing free hæmoglobin, and converted a portion of the hæmoglobin into hæmatin by the application of acid, thus turning it brown. The application of pyrozone at once bleached the bright red of the hæmoglobin, but had but little if any effect upon the brown stain of the hæmatin. Professor Kirk went on to state that he had had some success in this latter kind of discoloration by the application of oxalic acid after treatment with the hydrogen dioxide. It would be interesting to know whether similar results would follow the application of hydrogen dioxide and oxalic acid in the discolorations of the skin common in old-standing syphilis, etc.—*N. Y. Med. Journal*, April 23rd, '98.

**THE FEAR OF DEATH.**—Man occupies in view of death a situation that is peculiar, for he is probably the only being that knows he has to die. The battle against death spurs an immense number of men to study and work; and all the great intellectual and moral creations in art, religion, and science have been produced under the influence of the feelings excited by the certainty of that event. Yet the psychology of the ideas and emotions relative to death is still to be constructed. Man is not normally preoccupied with the thought of death. While he is in full vigor of health and strength he is not afraid of it and takes little heed of it. The idea that he will have to die some day rarely enters his mind, and when it does present itself it is so vague and relates to an event so uncertain as to the time when it will occur that no distress is produced by it. This inertia of the thought of death in the strong man follows from the important agency exercised by organic sensations in determining the psychical condition. We know that not only exterior phenomena acting on the sensorial organs that are directed to the outer world produce sensations in us, but changes of condition originating in the organism itself are also accompanied by sensations. The parts of the body that are by their situation withdrawn from the direct influence of external agents possess a special sensitiveness through which we perceive their changes of conditions—*From The Fear of Death*, by M. GUGLIELMO FERRERO, in *Appletons' Popular Science Monthly* for December.