

ture decay of the teeth, the other causes, such as destructive agents coming in contact with them, the want of regular and proper cleansing, &c., will be sufficiently obvious without any consideration from me.

I have given in an imperfect manner what I believe to be some of the main causes of the premature decay of the teeth. I will now as an addition to my paper, give an authority which differs somewhat from the theory I have advanced. A perambulating dentist called at my office not long since. After "taking stock of him," I remonstrated on the impropriety of going about the country, tinker like, as an impostor, pretending to practice dentistry, and advised him, being a young man, and possessing fair abilities, to go some where and study the profession scientifically. But he ignored the idea of science having anything to do with dentistry, and said it was purely a mechanical calling. After confounding him in several ways, I asked him what he would say if a parent brought a daughter to him who had just commenced her teens, and asked him, to be informed as to the cause of the early decay of her teeth? Well, he said, I would tell her that it was biological causes. I said that was rather a big word for many patrons. I suppose you mean that the mothers mental impressions during the gestation and infancy of the child determine the structure of the teeth. Yes, he said—I caved in.

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

REPORT OF DISCUSSIONS AT THE TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DENTAL ASSOCIATION, MARCH 4, 5 AND 6, 1869.

The first subject presented for consideration was "What are the best methods of controlling flow of saliva during the operation of filling teeth?"

Dr. Goddard remarked that inability to control the saliva in the mouths of his patients, he had found one of his greatest difficulties in filling teeth. Has found it impossible in many cases to keep the mouth dry by any of the ordinary methods. He had been for a few days using the rubber dam, in connection with the saliva pump, and thinks it has, in some cases, advantages over any other method.

Dr. James Taylor finds very great difficulty in keeping the mouth dry while operating; it sometimes seems as though the saliva flows in great quantity through all the ducts, into the mouth, and to pre-