

A BAD CASE OF GLOBUS.

Dr. Myers, of Paterson, N. J., was recently summoned in great haste, at midnight, to see a woman who was suffering the most excruciating agonies from having swallowed a set of false upper teeth, sixteen in number. Several women were about her, who had been called in to help her. Anodynes were administered to relieve her temporarily. Dr. Myers then closely scrutinized her mouth and throat, but could find no evidence of laceration. Moreover she could swallow readily. He suggested that the teeth might have been mislaid, but this was indignantly scouted by the attendants who declared that they had searched the house from top to bottom.

A further search under the pillow failed to disclose the missing property, and the case began to look serious, as the poor woman declared that she could not stand it any longer, as she felt the edge of the teeth cutting into the sides of her stomach. Finally, at the suggestion of the doctor, the inside of one of the pillow-cases was examined, and there the teeth were found, perfectly safe and harmless.

The patient, who had, a moment before, been suffering from the laceration of the teeth "against the edges of her stomach," recovered instantly, and the doctor was promptly dismissed.—*Medical Record.*

SALT IN DIPHTHERIA.

In a paper read at the Medical Society of Victoria, Australia, Dr. Day stated that, having for many years regarded diphtheria, in its early stage, as a purely local affection, characterized by a marked tendency to take on putrefactive decomposition, he has trusted most to the free and constant application of antiseptics, and when their employment has been adopted from the first, and been combined with judicious alimentation, he has seldom seen blood poisoning ensue. In consequence of the great power which salt possesses in preventing the putrefactive decomposition of meat and other organic matter, Dr. Day has often prescribed for diphtheritic patients living far away from medical aid the frequent use of a gargle composed of a table-spoonful or more of salt dissolved in a tumbler of water, giving children who cannot gargle a teaspoonful or two to drink occasionally. Adults to use the gargle as a prophylactic or preventive, three or four times a day.

A COMFORT TO FAT PEOPLE.

No doubt, says the London *Lancet*, it is unpleasant to be excessively obese; but the morbid dread of fat which has in recent years become fashionable has no foundation in physiological fact. Fat answers two purposes; it acts as a non-conducting envelope for the body, and protects it from too rapid loss of heat, and it serves as a store of fuel. In the course of exhausting diseases, it not infrequently happens that the life of a patient may be prolonged until the reserve of fat is exhausted, and then he dies of inanition. Fats supply the material of the heating process on which vitality mainly depends. In great excess it is inconvenient; but the external laying-on-of fat is no certain measure of the internal development of adipose tissue; much less does a tendency to grow fat imply or even suggest a tendency to what is known as "fatty degeneration." It is time to speak out on this point, as the most absurd notions seem to prevail. Again it is *not* true that special forms of food determine fat. That is an old and exploded notion. Some organisms will make fat, let them be fed on the leanest and scantiest and least saccharine descriptions of food; while others will not be "fattened" let them feed on the most "fattening" of diets. The matter is one in regard to which it is supremely desirable and politic to be natural, adapting the food taken to the requirements of health rather than substance. Simple food, sufficient exercise, and regular habits, with moderation in the use of stimulants, compose the maxim of a safe and healthy way of life.

THE ELECTRIC LIGHT vs. GAS IN THEATERS.

It is said that a marked improvement has been noticed in the acoustic properties of the Grand Opera House, Paris, since the introduction of the electric light. A layer of heated gases acts as a screen for sound, hence the volumes of hot fumes arising from the old gas-foot-lights obstructed and muffled, to some extent, the voices of the singers. With the electric light, inclosed in air tight bulbs, no fumes can be emitted, and very little heat is given off. Hence it benefits the ear as well as the eye.

THE SHARK FISHERIES AT NEW SMYRNA, FLORIDA.

(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

Our illustration represents a somewhat novel shark fishery near New Smyrna, on the Florida coast. The sharks are caught for the oil they afford, one sometimes gives seven or eight gallons. Some attempts have been made to collect the fins for exportation, but it does not pay. About \$100,000 worth of fins are yearly taken to Bombay and shipped to China. The shark fisheries are generally owned by one person, though sometimes the party works on shares. The fit-out consists of boiling pots to try the liver, barrels for the oil, a mule team, and fifteen or twenty lines. The lines are about as large as a clothes-line, the hook being a foot long and connected to a three-foot chain by a swivel. The season commences the last of March or April, and at this time, every morning at sunrise, a boat-load of negroes can be seen rowing out towards the mouth of the river to the place where sharks most do congregate. The men generally keep time to the oars with song and laughter, and, in fact, the business has more of a sporting character than falls to the lot of many. Arriving on the ground, the boats are hauled up, the fires started, and the lines spread along the beach at a distance of about 200 feet from each other. They are now baited with fresh shad or bass, and taking the coil of line and slowly whirling the heavy hook around his head, the "line" man steps quickly to the edge of the water and puts the bait out beyond the breakers into the channel that here runs close to the bank. From forty to fifty feet of line is generally thrown over, and one hundred more kept as a reserve to play the fish, if he proves a large one. The line is coiled near the edge and passed over a crotch of wood and caught tightly; this is done to all the lines. After throwing over the decayed remains of the catch of the previous day to bait up the game, the men lie on the sands and wait for a bite, and their patience is not generally taxed. The shark usually bites very softly, sometimes nosing the bait and producing a tremor in the line; and then it is jerked up, and the fish slowly moves off. Now the line must be allowed to run out at least twelve feet to give him a chance to attempt to swallow it. Four or five negroes have it well in hand, and when the leader thinks the time has come, he gives the word and they stop paying out; in a moment it is taut, and with a yell they jerk the hook into the fish and then the sport commences. As he feels the cold steel the shark rushes towards the deep water, dragging the men sometimes in knee-deep before they can stop his headlong rush. Now he makes a rush to the right, stopping suddenly and running right at them; with a leap cleaving the water and showing his whole length, and shaking his ugly maw in vain efforts to get rid of the chain, down he comes with a terrible splash, only to find himself deeper in the toils, as the men have taken in every inch possible. Now, perhaps, another line is seen going out, and two men are obliged to leave it short-handled and attend to that; this gives the shark a better chance, and he pulls the men fairly into the water, suddenly slacking and sending them all down in a heap, and as quickly starting off again; but the men, finally weary of this treatment, and giving him more line, run down the beach, dragging him through the surf to and fro, until, half-drowned, he grows weaker, and, getting close to the chain, they run him, flapping and gnashing his teeth, upon the sand. All but one now go to the help of the other line. The one left takes a sharp knife—carried by all—cuts the hook out, severs the head, rips open the stomach, and soon has the liver out. The fins are cut off by the boys, and the vertebræ are saved for canes. The work at the end of the day—when twenty or thirty sharks have been caught—begins to tell, as many of them are from twelve to fourteen feet long, and five or six men are needed to overpower them. The oil is often sold as whale-oil, and makes very good "dips." The capacity of some of these sea wonders is enormous. The writer caught one at Tortugas, Fla., that weighed about 900 lbs. It was a white shark, and for a longtime had lived around the slaughter-house located on the edge of the channel. It took about twenty men to get him in ultimately. In the stomach was found the skull and horns of a steer that had been thrown over the day before, three hoofs, beside a heterogeneous mass of old rope, seaweed, and two or three old tin cans that perhaps retained some of the meat that had been packed in them. The jaw was saved. It had eight rows of serrated teeth, and fitted over a man's body easily. It is now in the Museum of Natural History, Central Park. The fossil sharks of the tertiary period grow to an enormous length, exceeding 150 feet. At Charleston, S. C., their teeth are found buried in vast quantities, some measuring seven inches in length.