

action spreading to the contiguous mass, which necessarily becomes involved in the change, its products being acetic and carbonic acids ; the latter being set free on its generation, and the former remaining stationary in those fissures or depressions. The nitrogenized bodies or vegetable substances are capable of fermentation at certain temperatures, their respective juices containing saccharine matter. The albuminoid or animal substances act upon the tooth structures while in a state of putrefaction, the products being water, carbonic and acetic acids, ammonia, carburated hydrogen, and a semi-putrid substance which has an infect odour, the acetic acid being the active principle, but the relics of putrefaction are deposited upon the teeth and constitutes that species of calculi which is commonly known under the name of *green tartar*. It acts in a slow but deleterious manner upon the teeth, by absorbing small quantities at a time of the acids forming part of our food. It is the only species of that deposit which acts chemically upon the teeth.

To prevent the accumulation of food between the teeth, and in fissures or crevices, a brush corresponding in width to the length of the teeth, and of moderate hardness, the use of which should be recommended morning and evening ; in the former instance it is used for the purpose of removing the mucus deposits which adhere to the teeth during sleep, the precaution is always necessary after sleep. The brush should be used upwards and downwards, so as to reach as much as possible the mesial surfaces of the teeth. It should likewise be used both anteriorly as well as posteriorly, as far as it can reach, applying it to the labial, buccal and lingual surfaces, equally. When I say it should be of moderate hardness. I mean that its bristles should be pliable on slight pressure, for the proper use of a brush of the requisite width and stiffness may be considered as one of the numerous prophylactics against dental disorders. A very stiff brush, after its protracted use, causes an abrasion of the enamel, which, it is unnecessary to say, exposes the dentine to become diseased. The objections attending the use of a soft brush are, that the bristles do not penetrate sufficiently far to remove the foreign matter thoroughly, and by that very fact defeats its purpose. The use of the brush should not be abused of, its use morning and evening, as before stated, is all that is necessary. Some people, among the educated class, imagine that the more frequently they use it, the better. It is an error that we dentists should rectify every time such patients fall into our hands. The too frequent use of the brush involves,