

rejected for having one more or less defective tooth is a serious matter. Mr. Wyndham, in his speech on the "Army Estimates," stated that a good many would-be recruits were rejected on the ground of bad teeth, and these men are but examples of what is happening in all grades of society in this country. It is established as a fact, founded on widely-collected statistics, that 85 per cent. of British children under the age of twelve years require operative treatment. The question is, Can children with carious teeth grow into healthy adults? Can a race thrive whose children are so afflicted? When one has attained full growth it may not matter much whether the food is masticated by natural or artificial means, provided it is properly done; but with children it is a different matter, and the state of our children's teeth is a question of national importance. We understand that the question is to be brought up at the meeting of the British Medical Association at Portsmouth, where, in the Section of Public Health, direct attention will be drawn to the matter.—*British Medical Journal*, March 11th, 1899.

ACIDITY OF THE MOUTH DURING SLEEP.

The dentists tell us that an acid condition of the fluids of the mouth plays an important part in the etiology of dental caries; also that the causes of that affection are particularly active during the hours of sleep, when the saliva stagnates, so to speak, instead of being subjected to the agitation and renewal incident to the chewing and other movements that to some extent are almost continuous except during sleep. However carefully we may cleanse the teeth and rinse them with antiseptic solutions on going to bed, therefore, we are guarding but temporarily against decay; it gains on us while we are asleep. Possibly those who suffer with insomnia may snatch a crumb of comfort from his reflection, but we fear there is in it no consolation for the mouth-breathers, for the desiccation of the mouth which takes place in them during sleep, while enough to give rise to considerable discomfort on their waking, is quite insufficient to hamper pathogenic bacteria in their work of destruction.—*New York Medical Journal*, March 18th, 1899.

DENTAL CARIES AND PREGNANCY.

Biro (*Wien. med. Blätter*, December 1st, 1898) apparently shows beyond doubt that child-bearing has no agency whatever in promoting caries, save perhaps in cases of hyperemesis, in which the acidity, consequent upon persistent vomiting, appears to contribute somewhat to the decay of teeth. Biro examined parturient women,