

Dr. Mills' paper describes a condition of the gums that has been noticed by the essayist a number of times, but in patients of a totally opposite character from those Dr. Mills described, and the cause ascribed to an entirely different source.

Dr. Mills fails to state the sex of the twelve cases observed by him, and therefore our comparison in this respect cannot be made.

No regular data has been made of the cases observed by your essayist except during the last few months, and this is the result :

A. B., male ; age, thirty-eight ; large and well-formed ; active ; teeth with few cavities ; gums blanched, firm, but receded considerably from enamel margin, and seemingly tightly attached, but scaler shows that there is no attachment to teeth except to labial surface of right superior cuspid ; recession more marked on palatal roots of right superior molars and left inferior molars ; very marked on left superior and inferior cuspids and incisors ; mucous membrane of palate white and hard, with rugæ strongly outlined ; a few nodular eminences with bright red centre on the right side of hard palate, tongue whitened, but with fungiform papillæ strongly marked.

History. Health always good ; outdoor occupation ; seldom had a cold, although there was evidence of mild catarrhal trouble ; an inveterate smoker, smoked from ten to fifteen cigars a day, and sometimes a pipe at home ; cleansed his teeth twice a day, and saw a dentist every year ; very little salivary calculus, and only on lower anterior teeth and upper molars, but almost a black covering on the exposed roots, especially on palatal surface of superior and lingual surface of anterior inferior teeth ; seldom took quinine.

X. Y., male ; age, twenty-two ; well built, but a trifle slow in action ; teeth of good character, except first molars ; gums whitened and hard, with a marked stippling ; gingivæ of the anterior teeth on right side showing most strongly the nonattachment to teeth, also the gums near palatal root of superior first molar on left side ; some salivary calculus on lower anterior teeth, very little on molars ; superior teeth blackened on palatal side ; calculus black and hard on the lower teeth.

History. Smoked a meerschaum pipe nearly all the time in office, and held it between the cuspid and lateral on right side, so the smoke could not then get into his eyes when writing. No malaria ; had a cold once in a while ; took quinine sparingly, and hot whiskey often when he did have a cold.

J. L., male : age, fifty-four ; lake captain ; seldom went to the dentist ; calculus on nearly all the teeth ; roots exposed and black, gingival or interproximate space large, slight reddening where