

teeth and misshapen jaws are met with, although much less frequently, but they certainly are met with, in children who are naturally fed and who have never had a "comforter" in their mouths. But the responsibility of those entrusted with our natural health does not end because of that. If the decay of the teeth is due to abnormal feeding, or other causes on the part of the mother during either the antenatal period or during lactation, let the evil be pointed out and remedied if possible. If there are errors in diet, be they under the guise of "nourishing stout," invalid port," or wines with adjuncts of many kinds, let them be proclaimed. If it is found that in some parts of this country, owing to soil, water, etc., good teeth prevail, let the subject be investigated, and see if by addition to the ingesta of less favored districts a similar good results cannot be attained.

I am quite prepared for adverse criticism. I am quite aware that dental caries is known in rural as well as in urban populations. I am also aware that toothache prevailed from the earliest times, although Job is not mentioned as being afflicted with "that hell o' a' diseases," as Burns styles it. I also know that in Roman times feeding bottles were not unknown, and that such dental arts as bridging and stopping were practised during the heyday of the Roman Empire. This last reference perhaps favors my argument. Luxury in Rome led to unnatural motherhood and the use of the feeding bottle, and they are held to have reached the acme of their civilization, by some, because what we are accustomed to style modern dental arts were known to them. But this was only during the period of their luxury, and, as we know, that was followed by collapse, defeat, and expulsion. The conquering Goths knew none of the practices of civilization in the rearing of their young. Their simple diet gave them fine teeth without the aid of the toothbrush or of that necessary accession to high prandial civilization, the dentist.

I am also aware that carious teeth are met with by the missionaries and travellers amongst the most remote and primitive races of the earth. Even the Matabeles and the Ngnomi of Central Africa suffer from toothache and decayed molars. Nor is the evil confined to mankind. Decayed teeth and painful stumps are met with in the lower animals, but with these it is not the young that are affected. Given healthy teeth, the young may grow to perfection, with carious teeth they cannot.

I have not traced the further trouble of bad teeth: dyspepsia, the production of ptomaines, convulsions, neuralgia, headache, undeveloped chest owing to nasal obstruction and the development of a physique in which the seeds of disease are only wanted to generate tuberculosis and allied disease. We have heard a great deal of the national importance of dealing with the question