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## Original Communications

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### SYPHILITIC LOCOLOSIS ALVEOLARIS (PYORRHEA ALVEOLARIS).\*

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For more than twenty years I have given this subject close attention, not only with a view to its cure, but to ascertain the etiology of this disease, which is generally regarded as incurable.

Dr. Farrar says, "I believe locolosis alveolaris is a disease of the periodental membrane aggravated by calcarious deposits upon the teeth, which increases the inflammation so greatly that decalcification of the alveolar tissue results, and when this state exists the advance of locolosis increases more rapidly, until nature makes a serious effort to expel the tooth, and if successful the disease subsides and is lost from view. When all the teeth are lost locolosis ceases to be observed, showing that whatever the cause of the socket disease it does not reappear elsewhere."

In an article, "Some Suggestions on the Treatment of Pyorrhea Alveolaris," by myself, published in the *New York Medical Journal*, January 14th, 1899, I gave my views in regard to its treatment. I propose now to give some of my views upon the causes of this old and destructive disease.

Up to about twelve years ago I had treated several hundred cases of what I then supposed to be pyorrhea alveolaris; but in

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\* Read before the American Medical Association, Atlantic City.