

more than others; they should take a great care of the mouth; if otherwise, the sets cover themselves with food and tartar, which remaining habitually in moist and warm places, become infected and cause a great deal of inflammation to the mucous parts, and then the mouth becomes the seat of an intolerable smell. Unfortunately, gentlemen, we have often the evidence of what I have just said. A man must despise himself to a great extent to keep so much dirtiness, and we, poor dentists, are often compelled to stand a good distance from these persons, and in spite of us, their breath, which is able to kill flies while flying, reaches us; we would not be so unlucky if nature had given them, as to the alligators of San Domingo, under their lower jaw, the advantage of having a gland holding musk.

Though the rubbing of the teeth with a mere brush dipped in aromatized water is nearly always sufficient for maintaining the cleanliness of these organs, there are nevertheless persons either by the nature of their constitution or by previous negligence, who are compelled to seek more energetic means, that is to say, making a great use of powders.

I will say a few words on those which are still employed at present. Coal well ground, is a popular dentifrice; it is an antiseptic; its use almost given up, still they prepare it in our drug stores; its action is nearly useless on the enamel—its constant use ends by causing the teeth to appear black and the gums as afflicted with scurvy. This applies also to burnt crusts of bread which are used by several persons. Soot has been used for some time because it was believed that the chimney sweep's teeth were always white—that belief is erroneous. Their teeth appear white because their faces are black—as for instance, with negroes it is the mere contrast of the colour of their skin. Notwithstanding, the latter possess good, handsome and strong teeth. Its use is utterly unclean. Cinchona is a torpid powder, but its taste and color on the one hand, and on the other its tanning principle, which at length makes the enamel yellow, cannot recommend it as a dentifrice. It has, however, the property of hardening the gums. What I have said of cinchona can also be applied to tobacco.

*Salt* is by no means injurious, but it determines a considerable secretion of saliva.

Cigar ashes are also in use, that powder is very unwholesome—it is too strong an alkali. Alum, that substance which we can rank with tartaric and oxalic acid, are too strong powders, unless in order to use them we mix them with an absorbing substance having the property of neutralizing their acidity. We must mistrust those patented liquids and powders, the pompous names of which fill the columns of our newspapers,