

They all combine with the earthy base of the dental structures to form new compounds. Dr. Westcott has discovered, in his experiments on the action of food upon the dental organs, that acetic and citric acid so corroded the enamel in forty-eight hours that much of it was removed with the finger nail, but citric acting more readily than acetic. Malic acid, (the juice of apples,) and the acid of some of the other acidulous fruits also corrodes the teeth. Tartaric acid is the acid contained in raisins, it acts more promptly than any of those already mentioned. The acidulated beverages such as cider, orangeade, lemonade, lime juice, vinegar syrup, &c., are often taken during the hot season on account of their refreshing properties, and in order to counteract their evil influence upon the teeth, an alkali should be given to patients as a mouth-wash, composed of

R Sodæ Bicarbonas, dr. 1,  
Aqua, F. oz. 4.

If acids of any kind, or macidulous fruits be taken, the above should be used immediately.

Muriatic, sulphuric, nitric and lactic acids are remedies frequently given as tonics, and physicians should be careful in administering them through a glass tube in order to protect as far as is in their power, those valuable organs without which the process of digestion cannot be properly performed. Dr. Westcott says: Sulphuric and nitric ethers have a similar deleterious effect, these are frequently used as diffusible stimulants. The acids of some of the salts also corrode the teeth. Super-tartrate of potash, or cream of tartar destroys the enamel very readily. This article is frequently used to form an acidulated beverage. (It is also the basis of certain popular dentifrices, which whiten the teeth by corroding their surfaces.) It is easily understood that the acids of some of the salts given as medicines corrode the teeth, their acids having a greater affinity for the enamel and dentinal salts, a new compound being formed by their combination. Potassa fusa, although an alkali, acts injuriously upon the teeth, it has no effect whatever on the enamel, but it unites with the organic matter of the dentine.

As I said before, the position of the teeth and the fissures or indentations attending their malformation, are receptacles for both vegetable and animal food, particles of which are retained into those minute depressions or between the teeth after eating, and there fermentation commences, an *eremacausis* of the ferment taking place, which in other words is a decomposition of its molecules, the same