

have your replies to the following queries, together with any advice, suggestions or objections you may be pleased to give:

1. Will you please name any books, pamphlets, manuscript reports, in fact, any matters of interest you may possess, which, at the proper time, might be available for the history?
2. Will you give the names and addresses of any dentists in your vicinity who have written on the subject or are interested in dental history?
3. Should the proposed work, in your opinion, be confined to a history of the profession in America or should it be of dentistry from the earliest times all over the world?

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## Medical Department

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### DECAYED TEETH AND TUBERCULOUS CERVICAL GLANDS.

Medicine is constantly getting more and more indebted to the dentists for researches that are of distinct value in pathology and often have a direct bearing upon the prevention, if not the cure, of serious disease. The latest instance that has come to our notice is an investigation of the connection between decayed teeth and the occurrence of tuberculous infection of the lymphatic glands of the neck, by Dr. George W. Cook, of Chicago (*Dental Review*, February). Dr. Cook says that the idea that the pulp canals of decaying teeth might be the channels for tuberculous infection of the cervical glands was advanced some years ago by Dr. Stanley P. Black, who was at that time the pathologist of Mercy Hospital. Acting on Dr. Black's suggestion, Dr. Cook has made bacteriological examinations of the mouth with reference to tuberculous infection in two hundred and twenty cases. While he does not say that all tuberculous infection of the lymphatic glands of the neck takes place through decaying teeth, he thinks it very significant that the pulp canals of such teeth often become tuberculous, since, by reason of the close anatomical connection of the lymphatics with the teeth and with the mucous membrane of the mouth, the canals may readily become the portals of infection.

Dr. Cook gives succinct accounts of eleven cases in which tubercle bacilli were found in or about decayed teeth. One of them was that of a girl, seventeen years old, who had been in rather poor health for some time, and whose teeth had been somewhat neglected. The first and second right molars of the lower jaw were badly decayed. Bacteriological examinations were made