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Original Communications.

Diseases of the Oral Mucous Membrane.*

BY E. HERBERT ADAMS, M.D., D.D.S., TORONTO.

A VERY large proportion of the micro-organisms of disease at present known to medical science have been found in the oral cavity.

One authority alone (Miller, of Berlin) has isolated over one hundred different kinds of bacteria.

Among the nutrient material which bacteria find in the human mouth are saliva, buccal mucus, dead epithelial cells, tooth cartilage, the dental pulp, exudation of the gums and accumulations of particles of food. Many mouth bacteria in neglected mouths are carried with the food into the stomach, there to produce many complaints of the digestive tract, for all processes of fermentation and putrefaction depend on the presence of micro-organisms.

The mouth serves as a breeding place for the specific germs of many diseases. Among these are diphtheria, syphilis, tuberculosis, pneumonia and typhus.

*Read at meeting of Toronto Medical Society.