

reagents. The chlorides of sodium and potassium are always present in the saliva, and it is undoubtedly formed by the decomposition of one of these salts, its chlorine combining with the hydrogen of the water; and thus the acid is formed. Again, if there were different metals in the mouth, such as gold fillings and those of amalgam; or a gold plate, and plugs of some other metal or *vice versa*, we would have galvanic currents which would readily decompose the water and the chlorides, setting the elements free, and each one would unite with the one for which it had the greatest affinities. Now, hydrogen being an *electro positive* element, and chlorine *electro negative*, their affinities for each other consequently great, they would unite, and the result would be hydrochloric acid.

The soluble chlorides are no doubt decomposed by other means which we may never be able to demonstrate. Probably no man would pretend to say just how every chemical change in the body took place. These are some of the mysteries which, it would seem, were not intended for us to know.

In this paper I do not wish to be understood as intimating that the decay of teeth is entirely due to the action of the mineral acids, far from it; but I do think they exert a great influence upon dental decay, and in some cases it may be that it is entirely due to their action. The action of the organic acids that are found in the mouth no doubt is about the same as the other acids, but much less rapid in their effects.—*Missouri Dental Journal*.

At the meeting of the medical Society of London held in April last, Mr. Napier read a paper "On an improved method of Stopping or Plugging Teeth," and exhibited some specimens in which the cavities caused by decay were severally filled up with hippopotamus ivory, mother-of-pearl, and india rubber, vulcanised to the consistence of ebony. Mr. Napier desires to obviate the necessity for using metal in any form for stopping teeth, and read this paper with a view to prove the importance of the object he advocated. He argues that one of the principal causes of chronic inflammation in teeth that have been stopped according to the method now in general use, is that metal is a readier conductor of heat and cold than the natural substance of which a tooth is composed. The improvements he advocated would benefit both operator and patient.—*Medical Gazette*.