

Let every reader test this reaction and report. It has now the sanction and approval of good authority, but can the country doctor perform the test as we are told he can? We believe firmly in his efficiency, but we want to hear from him after he has tried a few experiments.—*Medical Summary.*

### ORAL CLEANLINESS.

Many people, otherwise fastidious, go about with filthy mouths. Those using false teeth are ordinarily the worst offenders, but those whose teeth are good are also common offenders. Every physician knows that a filthy mouth is frequently the cause of foul breath and indigestion. It is regrettable that the "disciple of health" should offend the sick by a foul breath; yet, the breath of many physicians is almost unbearable, especially to ladies. A few physicians use liquor, and many use tobacco, and few cleanse their teeth systematically and regularly. It is "our plain duty" to instill into the mind of the laity the necessity of personally performed oral ablutions after the age of four or five years, but how can we do this with reeking breaths? Every child should be taught to cleanse its mouth after every meal, and before retiring, as soon as able to handle a tooth-brush. Plain soap and water and a good brush are all the essentials, but some of the modern non-poisonous antiseptics are desirable and palatable additions to the oral toilet. A saturated solution of boracic acid is better than none. The physician who tastes beer, wine, whisky or tobacco would do well to disinfect his mouth before visiting patients. The physician who does not scrub his teeth—natural or false—four times daily neglects one of the fundamental principles of hygiene, and is hardly to be styled a "teacher" of the laity on matters of hygiene. As to oral hygiene, those with reasonably good natural teeth may do well to scrub them thoroughly with soap and water, or with salt and water, or with some antiseptic, four times a day. Those having false teeth should scrub the plates and the mouth in like manner, and at such times, and keep the plates in a saturated boracic acid solution every night. Any one doing so may keep natural or false teeth sweet and clean, and free from germs; those who do not, can not. Since it is now known that many infections may be, and are, transmitted by the breath, it is the plain duty of the physician to keep his own mouth clean, and teach his clientèle to do likewise.—*Medical Summary.*