

## NOTES, QUERIES AND REPLIES.

**CAUSE OF DECAY OF THE TEETH**—Dr. L. B. Palmer, of New York, has been led to conclude from a series of experiments, that the decay of the teeth is not, as is generally supposed, due to acids, but to alkalis, (*Cosmos and British Journal of Dental Science*). With alkalis he reproduced decay of the teeth as it is seen in the mouth, but was unable to do so by acids. With the assistance of an electric current, acids simply acted on and destroyed the whole of the enamel.—*The Doctor*.

**PHILOSOPHICAL PUZZLES**.—An American writer shows, by a perfectly just argument, that the much-used maxim, "All rules have their exceptions," is really self-contradictory. If all rules have exceptions, this maxim is itself a rule, and therefore must also have its exceptions. Consequently, the proverb at the same time affirms that all rules have their exceptions, and that some rules do not,—which is an obvious case of proverbial suicide.

**ROMAN PHYSICIANS** visited their patients attended by all their pupils; in allusion to which Martial wrote:

"I'm ill. I send for Symmachus; he's here,  
An hundred pupils following in his rear.  
All feel my pulse with hands as cold as snow;  
I had no fever then,—I have it now!"

**THE MORTALITY** among the children of peers in England under five years of age, as quoted by the Registrar-General, is at the rate of 20·69 per 1000; among the Society of Friends, the children's death rate is 27·87 the children of the clergy die at the rate 30·27; in the country districts the death-rate under five years is 40·34; while in town districts it reached 80·13 per 1000.

**PRAYER AND GOOD WORKS**.—The inhabitants of a provincial city demanded of Lord Palmerston that the angel of pestilence should be stayed by a day of national prayer and fasting. "I will fast with you and pray with you," was the statesman's answer, "but let us also drain, scrub, wash, and be clean."

**INCORRIGIBLE**.—Medical adviser: "Now, first of all, you must not drink beer in the morning." Patient: "No more I should, old fellow, but it so happens there's not a drop of brandy in the house!"

**THE** referred to accidents, violence, &c., during the last quarter numbered 4,590 in the United Kingdom, (Great Britain and Ireland.) There were 6,459 inquests held during the same period.

**DR. JAMES CURRIE** said, in a letter to his friend, Dr. Bell, of Manchester, "I get practice, but my patients seem to die out of spite."

**DRYDEN** wrote:—"He 'scapes the best, who, nature to repair,  
Draws *physick* from the fields."