

erations in cells is the prerequisite of growth and development. . . . The metamorphosis of the tissues,—that is, the common law of the economy,—happily for mankind, does not hold in the teeth and hence, operations upon them, when properly performed, are permanent in character. . . . How to do it involves two general propositions: keep the teeth clean, and thus secure their integrity; where integrity is not attained, or is lost by fracture or decay, remove all imperfect, and restore the form and size of the tooth.

Dr. Atkinson said the reason that more is not known on this subject is because of the general belief that there is no money to be got out of it, and this idea necessarily closes the field of vision beyond. The majority of our superior men have obtained their knowledge through long and earnest efforts. If he could supply the lost brick in every man's pathology, he should be very happy to supply it. In the matter of operations of a surgical nature, the dental practitioner could put to shame the general surgeon, from his greater experience with and familiarity in the use of his instruments. Dental pathology was much more clearly defined than general, because of its limited range and the uncomplicated character of the structures; hence, more definite and understandable by less erudite minds. In enamel we find the exact analogue of the mineral kingdom, whose mode of aggregation is an expression of the laws of crystallography; and in the dentine, that of the vegetable kingdom, where nutrition is conducted by a to-and-fro movement of fluids in tubes; and in the pulp we have the exact and veritable mode of nutrition known to the animal kingdom, which is actuated by anatomical elements called cells. It is indispensable that it should be first known what *nutrition* means, and that all the tissues work up through their various grades by the formation, from an amorphous mass of chaotic substance, of the anatomical elements distinctive of the tissues. In the mineral kingdom we have the law of crystallography displayed in simplest and most composite expression. In the vegetable this is repeated, with an additional complication and correlation of elements, so that a vegetable is but an advanced mineral, with the plus something that constitutes it a vegetable. In like manner the animal kingdom grows out of the vegetable by the process of disintegration and reconstruction on a higher plane; so that a complete understanding of animal nutrition involves both vegetable and mineral modes of destructive and constructive assimilation; and happy for us is it that the field of our labors is thus circumscribed, and that nature has