

must be beautiful to behold, and a source of intense enjoyment to the fortunate possessor : and, as if her cup of joy was not yet filled to the brim, this happy recipient of the *ivorys*, set in coral, is, as we are informed, at the mature age of forty-five (when most females have given up all hope of adding to the number of our population,) in that interesting situation which

“ Ladies wish to be who love their lords.”

Nature, sometimes, works in a mysterious manner, and the Doctor has, no doubt, acted wisely in not interfering with her operations, but has come to the conclusion to *wait and hope*.

I have yet to learn of one well authenticated case of third dentition at that age. It is true, some of the old writers, such as Bacon, John Hunter, Good, &c., mention cases as having come under their observation, and I believe Dr. McCabe, of Virginia, to be the only American writer who has recorded a case of the kind, and these were reported as occurring to persons at the advanced age of from three score and ten to one hundred and twenty, when they were just verging into that state described by the melancholy Jacques, as the last scene of all, “*sans teeth, sans taste, sans everything.*”

In my practice of over twenty years, I have seen a great number of supposed cases of third dentition, but found on investigation that they were only cases of retarded second dentition, sometimes caused by the too early loss of the deciduous teeth, and the consequent contraction, or rather want of proper development of the dental arch, whereby the permanent teeth were so much crowded that sometimes the cuspids, in others the lateral incisors and second cuspids, were wanting, and after some of the incisors or molars were drawn, lo, the last sheep made their appearance and were named teeth of the third dentition. The cuspidati of the superior, and the bicuspids of the inferior jaw are very often retarded for years by the retention of the deciduous teeth. I have at present among my patients ten or more persons from the age of 20 to 50 years who have some of their deciduous teeth remaining in their mouths, and no doubt if the milk teeth were removed, those of the second dentition that should have occupied their places would make their way to the surface of the gums.

The teeth are formed in the alveoli, which are rows of cells coincident in number with the teeth; the bone composing the alveolus is porous, with thin edges surrounding the fangs of the teeth. When a tooth of the second dentition is extracted, the corresponding alveolus is absorb-