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ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

EDITORIAL NOTES ON PRACTICAL SUBJECTS.

DYSPEPSIA ORIGINATING IN THE ABSENCE OF, OR DISEASE OF THE
TEETH.

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Among the various causes of dyspepsia there are several having a direct bearing on our specialty, wherein our advice and skill as dentists, will often bring about the only permanent cure. I refer to those cases which originate in a diseased condition, or the entire absence of the teeth, and consequent imperfect mastication, deglutition and digestion. Without interfering with the prerogative of the physician,—a breach of ethics against which we should always guard,—we may often remove *the cause* or origin of the disease, and lay the foundation of certain recovery. Without the food is properly masticated, the different glands of the mouth, and the follicles of the mucous membrane are not aroused to activity, and the aliment to be taken into the stomach, is unprepared for the act of swallowing, and chymification. The buccal secretions are absolutely necessary to digestion, though their effect is principally mechanical; the gastric juice being the great solvent. Food insufficiently triturated, and not well mingled with the saliva, is not as soon acted upon by the gastric juice, and indigestion with its numerous attendants, is almost invariably the result. The secretions of the mouth which lubricate the food, are furnished by the mucous membrane, and three pairs of glands—the parotid, submaxillary and sublingual—very necessary to health, but very troublesome to control, as we all know, during diffi-