

at the best, is a mere experiment. In regard to the two first mentioned reasons, I have nothing further to say than merely to repeat what I have stated already, that in properly selected cases no such objection can be for a moment entertained. But he says scarification is at the best an experiment. Now, by an experiment I understand something that is done in order to discover an uncertain or unknown effect. But the effect of scarification is neither unknown nor uncertain, and therefore scarification cannot properly be called an experiment.

We know positively that irritation of a nerve-trunk may induce convulsions, and in dentition how very often do we find the trifacial excited by inflammation of the gum. The lancing relieves congestion, tension, and pain, and by allaying irritation prevents or arrests convulsion. Such, at all events, is my belief—a belief which the experience of my seniors tends to strengthen and confirm.

*Dr. Cochrane* quite approved of the principles which had been expressed.

*Dr. Fraser* begged to repeat what he had said at a previous meeting—that he had in his own person experienced the very greatest benefit from scarification, and he had often seen the operation followed by similar results in children.

*Dr. Keiller* said that he believed dentists entertained the idea that scarification of the gums gave relief in many cases. He himself knew of numberless cases where mischief had been averted by lancing the gums, and he believed that the good effected was to be attributed to the relief of congestion by depletion.

*Dr. Bryce* remembered a case of slow dentition in a child, where lancing the gum put an end to violent spasmodic twitchings of the muscles. His own youngest child was subject to violent cough at the cutting of every tooth. He tried scarification, and the cough disappeared.

*Dr. Cappie* had seen the benefits of scarification in his own children.

*Dr. Bruce* thought there were few practitioners who did not find good results from scarification. He had seen several cases where serious nervous symptoms were arrested by it.

*Dr. Menzies* has seen a child who was screaming, sleepless, and feverishly hot, in whom the upper incisors were coming and the gum was tender. He scarified the gum, and the child almost immediately fell asleep, and was quite well afterwards.

*Dr. James Young* said that he cordially agreed with *Dr. Stevenson Smith* in the opinions which he had advanced. *Dr. Young* had obtained in the course of his experience ample testimony to satisfy him that it was the duty of every medical man to relieve children of the pain and other concomitant sufferings which resulted from dentition. He had that day