

its favor, that is, pertaining to the teeth. We find on examination that tobacco is an alkali; it interferes with the acid and it allays pain and obtunds sensitiveness; that we know. Yet, in view of all these facts presented to-night, who among us would dare to continue the use of tobacco? (Laughter.)

Dr. DONHAM—I do not wish to discuss this subject at any length, but it put me in mind of a case I had. A gentleman was dropsical from heart disease, and had eaten tobacco forty solid years; chewed the weed and swallowed the tobacco, and did not die for forty years. He was dropsical; he lost consciousness. Another doctor was with me and said my patient would be gathered into Abraham's bosom that night; but I brought him around and he lived a solid year. I think you can get habituated to a pretty strong dose of tobacco.

Dr. CATES—That appeal to our sense of decency is well timed. I use tobacco, I am sorry to say; but I really do not think we should use tobacco. With our knowledge of such things we have to use to prevent the inroads of tobacco, I do not think we have any excuse for using it, whatever. It is no doubt a filthy habit and it is an expensive one. It is offensive to ladies, generally; but that paper, as I said before, is a timely article among us, and I think I would go in with any number of gentlemen present and form an anti-tobacco society.

Dr. COGSWELL—My object was simply to bring the matter before you as a profession. I think in many cases we get careless, and it sometimes gets to be objectionable. As a profession we want to be neat and nice about our person and about our appearance in every way, and should take great pains about what we do in that respect, in order to elevate ourselves as a body. That was one reason which induced me to write this paper. I was led to it by the remarks of some ladies, who spoke of dentists who use tobacco and they did not like to go to them. It may aid us and assist us to do better. I would like to ask the gentlemen here if the use of tobacco does not have an injurious effect on the teeth. I think tobacco itself (the plant) is astringent; but I think the effect of tobacco as a foreign substance, on the molar teeth especially, is bad. One medical doctor was convinced at the last meeting and proclaimed himself a convert.

Dr. J. M. MAGEE—I do not think anybody can do more or less than praise Dr. Cogswell for his able paper; but there is one little mistake I notice here, I think we might correct; at least I think it is a mistake. In the mouths of smokers, where I have noticed the roof of the mouth, those little pimples or blisters that he speaks of, I have never seen the gum "spongy." Wherever I have seen it, the gums were firm. I have never seen them covered with germs from tobacco. The effect of tobacco is to paralyze these germs, and from that very fact it is not a bad thing for caries. It will stop