

Section B.—Professor Faraday read a short paper wherein he observed that he had every reason to suspect antimony to be an alkali, because it is so dear (*soda*). Dr Davy then remarked that he himself thought that antimony-wine was made dearer (*Madeira*).

Professor Goldfuss then made some remarks upon gold-mines, and on the iron-y of *Steele*. Colonel Silver-top said he quite acquiesced in the observations of the talented professor.

Mr. Charlesworth stated that a great quantity of plum-pudding stone had been discovered in the counties of Kent and Essex. Mr. Chadwick said he rejoiced at the discovery, as it would afford another means of economising in the victualling department, of the poor-houses. He would communicate the interesting fact to the commissioners.

Section C.—Professor Sedgwick exhibited some portions of an ancient barrel-organ which had become fossilised. These organic remains were, as he remarked, very curious.

Dr. Buckland exhibited a large slab of free-stone, on which he considered to be the foot-marks of some extinct animal. Mr. Murchison said he thought they were only the foot-marks of a table. The two gentlemen then entered into a lengthy dispute, which terminated without either embracing the other's opinion.

Section D.—Mr. Golding Bird read a paper 'On the Perch, and on the Goldfinch.' It was exceedingly technical, as his writings generally are.

Professor Frost read a paper 'On the Skate and Bleak.' He was applauded by every sole present.

Mr. Swainson read a paper, proving that, as *Cuvier* is the French for a cooper, the illustrious naturalist of that name must have been a follower of the ternary (urucry) system. Several systematists said that this was not a fair and logical inference; but the author replied, that he never would abandon any motion after having had the trouble of forming it.

Mr. Bell read a paper, of much interest, on the clapper rail. He concluded amid a *prel* of applause.

Mr. Neville Wood exhibited the very mouse which came from the mountain in labour. Both he and the mouse were looked at with much curiosity.

An eminent fly-catcher, whose name we could not catch, read a paper 'On the genus *Muscicapa*.'

Mr. Gould read a paper 'On Bird Stuffing.' He did not approve of stuffing them with *sage and onions*, a barbarous method recommended by Glass, Kitchiner, Ude, Meg Dods, and others.

Mr. Yarrell exhibited some very interesting *Buphaga*, or beef-eater caught in the Tower; an adjutant from Waterloo; a moor-hen from Tom Moore; a frog from Croston Croker; a strange calf from Cows; a large swan from the Signet Office; a great seal from the Lord Chancellor; a fire-flare from Swing; some voracious storks from Lincoln's Inn; and the "cinque-spotted mole" of Imogen.

Mr. Newman read a paper 'On the Ich-neumon,' and then exhibited a very large blue-bottle found in a wine-cellar. The Bishop of Ferns read a paper 'On the Cryptogamia,' and Mr. Doubleday made some observations respecting the double dahlia.

Mr. Jesse exhibited a new species of *jessamine*, which grows in the ground where it lives till it dies.

Section E.—Dr. Roget made some statements corroborative of the discovery of a modern French philosopher, that the soul is but two grains of phosphorus. He said he believed the Will-o'-the-wisp to be the soul disengaged from some human being.

Mr. Knapp read a paper 'On Sleep,' ... referred to the experiments of Baron Dupotet, who sends people to sleep by means of animal magnetism. He said he had often observed sleep produced by reading of a dull book or a sermon.

Section F.—Colonel Sykes read some valuable memoranda respecting the statistics of the metropolis. Among other things, it appeared that there are in London, 75,000 persons who chew tobacco; 100,000 who take snuff;

200,000 who smoke pipes; 80,000 who smoke cigars; 700,000 who have pocket-handkerchiefs, and 900,000 who have nothing but fingers; 600,000 who have quiet wives; 900,500 who have cross wives; and 700,000 who have no wives at all. He promised to lay before them, at the next meeting, a statistical report of the respective numbers of venders of hot kidney-puddings, sheep's-heads, dog's-meat, and baked potatoes, in London.

Dr. Taylor read a paper 'On the Medical Statistics of London,' from which it appeared, that 25,000 persons (including infants) take castor oil regularly once a week; 400,000 occasionally; and 700,000 never; 200 take the medicines prescribed by their doctors, and 900,500 throw their physic "to the dogs."

Section G.—Mr. Herapath exhibited some models for steam watches and clocks. He said that the application of steam to watches and clocks is entirely his own invention, and one for which he hopes to obtain a patent.

Mr. Monk Mason read a paper 'On the use of the Balloon in extracting Teeth.' He said, that if a number of lines of pack-thread be attached to the car of the balloon by one end, and the other ends fastened round the teeth of as many persons, all their teeth might be very expertly and comfortably extracted from their gums, simultaneously, on the rising of the balloon. The gentleman sat down amid great applause.—*Literary Gazette*.

ENGLISH WARS.—Of 127 years, terminating in 1815, England spent 65 in war, and 62 in peace. The war of 1688, after lasting nine years, and raising our expenditure in that period to thirty-six millions, was ended by the treaty of Ryswick in 1697. Then came the war of the Spanish succession, which began in 1702, concluded in 1713, and absorbed sixty-two and a half millions of our money. Next was the Spanish war of 1739, settled finally at Aix-la-Chapelle in 1748, after costing us nearly fifty four millions. Then came the seven years' war of 1756, which terminated with the treaty of Paris in 1763, in the course of which we spent one hundred and twelve millions. The next was the American war of 1775, which lasted eight years. Our national expenditure in this time was 136 millions. The French revolutionary war began in 1793, lasted nine years, and exhibited an expenditure of 464 millions. The war against Bonaparte began in 1803, and ended in 1815. During those twelve years we spent 1159 millions: 771 of which were raised by taxes, 388 by loans. In the revolutionary war we borrowed 201 millions; in the American, 104 millions; in the seven years' war, 60 millions; in the Spanish war of 1739, 29 millions; in the war of the Spanish succession, 321 millions; in the war of 1688, 20 millions: total borrowed in the seven wars, during 65 years, about \$34 millions. In the same time we raised by taxes, 1189 millions; thus forming a total expenditure of 2023 millions.—*London Weekly Review*.

FEMALE CONVERSATION.

For readiness, tact, and discrimination, elegance and address, for the acquirement of all these good qualities, there is no school like that of female society. The lesser virtues, too, those of complaisance, kindness, and good-will, with many others allied to them, are hardly to be got elsewhere. But with these I have no business at present. I am now on the talent of conversation, and that too I may safely add to the catalogue above enumerated. The mind of woman, taken in the abstract and without reference to individuals, when we compare it with that of man, is much what the graver or penknife is to the axe. It is a thing of no great force, it can achieve no stupendous work, scarcely any thing sublime was ever compassed by it; but, in matters of minute detail, of ready invention, of nice adjustment, of elegant though superficial execution, it is your only instrument. To hear a woman talk politics is to be sickened of them for days, or weeks, or months after, according to circumstances. This is an unfailing rule. Then, to listen to her religion is usually, through not so generally, to be reminded of the hasty curiosity of Eve. Their vivacity is too prompt and sparkling. They fill their measure with

the first outbreak of their froth, and when we have waited long enough for it to subside, we look again, and behold all is emptiness. Their range, then, is a circumscribed one; but in it they are like fairies within their ring—creatures of infinite grace and power. To be much conversant with them is a thing of as much advantage for the learned man as the lessons of the fencing-master would be to the raw big-boned recruit. They would not, perhaps, add materially to his strength, but, by teaching him its full use, they would incomparably heighten its utility.—*Self Formation*.

A CHAPTER ON TEETH.

BY DR. S. SMITH.

In man, the several classes of the teeth are so similarly developed, so perfectly equalized, and so identically constructed, that they may be considered as the true type from which all the other forms are deviations.

For the accomplishment of their office, the teeth must be endowed with prodigious strength; for the fulfilment of purposes immediately connected with the apparatus of digestion, it is necessary that they should be placed in the neighbourhood of exceedingly soft, delicate, irritable, and sentient organs. That they may possess the requisite degree of strength, they are constructed chiefly of bone—the hardest organized substance. Bone, though not as sensible as some other parts of the body, is nevertheless sentient. The employment of a sensitive body in the office of breaking down the hard substances used as food, would be to change the act of eating from a pleasurable into a painful operation. It has been shown that provision is made for supplying to the animal a never-failing source of enjoyment in the annexation of pleasurable sensations with the act of eating; and that, taking the whole of life into account, the sum of enjoyment secured by this provision is incalculable. But all this enjoyment might have been lost—might even have been changed into positive pain—nay, must have been changed into pain, but for adjustments numerous, minute, delicate, and, at first view, incompatible.

Had a highly-organized and sensitive body been made the instrument of cutting, tearing, and breaking down the food, every tooth, every time it comes in contact with the food, would produce the exquisite pain now occasionally experienced when a tooth is inflamed. Yet a body wholly inorganic, and therefore insensible, could not perform the office of the instrument; first, because a dead body cannot be placed in contact with living parts without producing irritation, disease, and consequently pain, and, secondly, because such a body, being incapable of any process of nutrition, must speedily be worn away by friction, and there could be no possibility of repairing or of replacing it. The instrument in question, then, must possess hardness, durability, and, to a certain extent, insensibility; yet it must be capable of forming an intimate union with sentient and vital organs, must be capable of becoming a constituent part of the living system.

To communicate to it the requisite degree of hardness, the hard substance forming its basis is rendered so much harder than common bone, that some physiologists have even doubted whether it be bone—whether it really possess a true organic structure. That there is no ground for such doubt, the evidence is complete. For,

1. The tooth, like bone in general, is composed partly of earthy and partly of an animal substance; the earthy part being completely removable by maceration in an acid, and the animal portion by incineration, the tooth under each process retaining exactly its original form.

2. The root of the tooth is covered externally by periosteum; its internal cavity is lined by a vascular and nervous membrane; and both structures are intimately connected with the substance of the tooth. If these membranes really distribute their blood vessels and nerves to the substance of the tooth, (which there is no reason to doubt,) the analogy is identical between the structure of the teeth and that of bone.

3. Though the blood-vessels of the teeth are so minute that they do not, under ordinary circumstances, admit the