

variations in the height to which the *eminentia articularis* was raised would be observed. He gathered that Mr. Hepburn was of opinion that a good deal of the forward movement of the lower jaw in old people was due to the fact that the *eminentia articularis* in them was much lower than in people of middle life. This view should not go forth on the authority of the Society without a reservation. He (Mr. Bennett) thought that the protrusion was probably due more to the fact of the ligaments yielding and the jaw becoming exceedingly lax in old age, than to any absorption and flattening of the *eminentia articularis* itself.—*Dental Record* (London, Eng.)

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### Gum Lancing in Difficult Primary Dentition.\*

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By DR. E. C. KIRK, D.D.S.

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I should feel myself constrained to offer you an apology for bringing to your notice such an antiquated topic, were it not that, old as it is, the vexed question of its legitimacy is still in dispute, and the procedure has not gained general acceptance among medical and dental practitioners. It is not my purpose to enter into any historical *resumé* of the views entertained by various writers of greater or less prominence, who have recorded their opinions from the times of Hippocrates and Galen to the present time; but in this paper to call your attention to the main differences in the two principal schools of thought on this subject, and urge upon you the necessity of investigating it for yourselves, not from the point of view of the medical practitioner, but from the background of the special training and culture which you possess as dentists. I think we may safely dismiss from consideration the views and theories of earlier medical writers upon this subject, and confine ourselves wholly to an investigation of the more recent, for in a certain and more or less definite degree the former are included in the latter—at least, so much of the former as has been considered valuable. The question of gum lancing in difficult primary dentition has been the subject of much animated discussion during the past eighteen months. Especially since the publication of a book by Dr. Forchheimer, of Cincinnati, Ohio, on "Disease of the Mouth in Children" (non-surgical), in May, 1892, in which work the author took most positive ground against the operation as a therapeutic measure for the relief of diseases inci-

\*An address before the Woman's Dental Association of the United States.