

may conclude that the roots run down parallel with the sides of the crown.

IV.—In case the neck of a posterior tooth, should be larger than the grinding surfaces, the roots will be found converging.

V.—When we observe one of the sides of the crown inclining to the middle of the tooth, so we will find the corresponding root bent in the same direction, while the other roots are found parallel with the perpendicular line of the tooth.

In the wisdom teeth the abnormal direction of roots is the most common.—*American Journal Dental Science.*

DISEASE OF THE LIVER.—From a notice in the *Dublin Medical Press and Circular* of Dr. Murchinson's new book of Diseases of the Liver, &c., we extract the following:—

“Take, for instance, the question of the action of mercury on which Dr. Hughes Bennett has been engaged in experiments for the British Medical Association, and whose conclusions thereon so surprised the great body of practitioners. Dr. Murchinson has evidently carefully weighed the evidence, and he has come to the conclusion which is likely at present to receive the assent of the majority. He thinks “mercury and allied purgatives probably produce bilious stools by irritating the upper part of the bowels, and sweeping on the bile before there is time for its absorption.” He recognized the fact that articles of food frequently give rise to similar effects, and thinks that their action is precisely similar. From this we might suppose that other purgatives should be substituted more frequently than they are, and assuredly this view supports the American preference for podophyllin, or as it is called sometimes in the States, “vegetable calomel.” We could certainly say much in its favor. Dr. Murchinson considers calomel of great use for congestion of the liver, but if it increased the secretion of the bile, it would have an injurious effect. He thinks it is likely “irritation of the duodenum by purgatives, may be reflected, to the gall-bladder, and cause it to contract, and that the evacuation of the viscous may account in part for this increased quantity of bile in the stools.” Dr. Murchinson's is a handy sized volume. The former half treats of enlargements of the liver, under the division of painful and painless enlargements. The latter includes gall-stones, jaundice, hepatic pain, contractions, and abdominal dropsy. The cases upon which the lectures are founded are well selected and carefully related. Their study is likely to lead to more careful diagnosis and treatment.”—*Boston Med. and Surg. Journal.*