

HOW DO THE TEETH GROW?

By B.

Just the same in one sense as the other infant structures. They select from the blood the materials they require for their composition. In all ages and among all races, and among all animals, this process of selection has gone on, each tissue selecting the material it needs and rejecting what it does not need. Same in vegetable kingdom. Down at Cacouna, in any rocky pool when the tide is out, you find little plants we call sea-weed, sipping from the mingled waters their daily dose of iodine. Housed sea-snails sucking from it carbonate of lime for their shells; restless fishes extracting from it phosphate of lime to strengthen their bones, and lazy-like sponges dipping successfully into it for silica to distend the mouths of their fibres. Year by year, up to mature age, the bones absorb more earthy salts, and the soft cartilaginous structures become harder and stronger, able to sustain the weight of the body; the muscles become firmer and thicker, skin more tense and thick, convolutions of brain deeper and larger as mental faculties develop and are exercised. But the teeth do not participate in this. The capacity for selection pervades every tissue and every organ of the living body, excepting the teeth. Food supplies nutrition so as to cause changes everywhere, excepting to the hard tissues of the teeth.

A TRICK WORTH KNOWING.

By W. D. KNIGHT, D.D.S., Cornwall, Ont.

I noticed that on damp, rainy days, the cord of my engine was tighter than on dry days. About a week ago the cord became so loose that when I applied pressure to the bur it would stop revolving, and the cord would slip around on the wheel. I took a wet sponge and held it to the cord till it was saturated, when I found that the cord had so shrunk as to be quite tight. I think that this is "a trick worth knowing" to a man when he is in a hurry and has not time to stop to shorten the cord. This is probably known to many dentists already, but I write trusting that it may be as new to many as it was to me.