

ed experience, like some of my respected confreres of the Society, they will kindly excuse any plagiarism or defects of style in the following:

As the preservation of the teeth depend on the manner of their *personal* treatment by the patient, and their treatment pathologically by the dentist, I will first allude to decay and causes of decay, and conclude by stating the means resorted to for the eradication of disease, under the heads of cleanliness, and filling of teeth.

Caries or decay of the teeth in every instance commences externally, and remedies externally applied will ever arrest and prevent it; and though disease originates in this manner, it does not attack the entire surface of a tooth, but merely *certain* points common to the same class of teeth in all mankind, where from some peculiarity, accidental or of shape, morbid action necessarily commences. So do we frequently find decay attacking the teeth in *pairs*, on account of shape and the circumstances in which they are placed at every stage of their existence being similar; what I mean by pairs are the organs corresponding to each other on either side of the arch, at the same time I may properly say that they decay in *double pairs*, the same rule being applicable to the corresponding teeth of the lower jaw.

The saliva in its purity is incapable of injuring the substance of teeth, especially the enamel, and thus we inevitably find the most prominent portions of an organ the most perfect; even the dentine when left unprotected, by filing, having the enamel broken off or worn down by mastication, if in a situation where it can be kept cleansed, resists decomposition for years, though very much less calculated to do so than enamel. From this we must conclude that the saliva, in itself harmless, when in combination with substances introduced into the mouth, different kinds of food, etc., and allowed to rest there, becomes stagnant; its properties change, and by a chemical agency on the relics of food lodged on, in or between the teeth, a deleterious change takes place, resulting in the formation of an active acid, which by reiterated contact with the organs, exerts a pernicious influence, attacking and destroying the tooth structure. Therefore the advantages of cleanliness, which in connection with the mouth means literally the free use of tooth-brush and water, for we can easily understand how by their aid the alimentary particles so snugly hid away in the indentations and crevices of the teeth after meals, can be thoroughly washed out of their otherwise strong and evil positions. This is the personal treatment I have alluded to, and