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Poetry.

HEALTH.

BY JULIA A. BARBER.

There is a priceless jewel sent by Heaven
To all who walk in Nature's holy way,
I marked its glory, like the golden morn,
That clothes the forehead of the earth with light;

Among the sons of men its shining track
Was bright with gems of Peace, and Happiness,
And in my heart I said, "How great and good
The Father who bestows such blessed gifts
To win the gratitude and love of all
His wayward children. In the narrow way
Of Virtue, Purity, and Truth, they all
Will surely tread, and wear this priceless gem
As keepers of a high, and sacred trust."

Atas! The faith that whisper'd thus was built
On shifting sand.

For vanity and sin,
For folly and for Fashion's glittering show,
This gift of God is rudely cast away.

And yet how poor a recompense is this
For life's great blessing, health, forever lost!
A passing dream—an hour of sin and pride—
And then with weary heart to backward gaze
On life's lone waste, a pathless wilderness,
Where we may vainly seek, with outstretched
hands,

To wander but to happiness, and God.

The wasted lives that lay on Fashion's shrine
Their gifts divine, yea, and their hopes of
Heaven,

Are passing downward to the gates of Death.
And is the boon of life so poor a thing
That the best powers of the God-like mind
Are wasted in perverting this great gift?
We know not of the wealth that sleeps within,
Unconscious energy of heart, and mind,
Prisoned and tortured in these mortal bars.
Why then degrade the casket that enshrines
The soul, so rich in its communion with God?

Diamonds may sparkle on the hly brow
Of Fashion's votary, and costly garb
May seek to beautify His last, best work,
As though 'twere possible to deck the flow'rs
His hand hath wrought, and in use so beautiful:
But give to me that pearl of greater price,
That gem of health, so little valued now,
That glitter'd on the brow of Industry,
And blest the loving hearts of "long ago."
Orwell, 17.

For the Journal of the Times.

HOW ARTIFICIAL TEETH ARE MADE.

THE artificial teeth commonly known as mineral block teeth are composed of mineral substances according to certain formulae. The formula for the body of the tooth is different from either that of the enamel or the gum. The body or bodies, when mixed, have the appearance of a cream-colored clay, and when once prepared they are, for obvious reasons, kept wet till used. The bodies are numbered according to a recognized plan, so that when the dentist requires a

tooth or a set of teeth of a light shade he uses a body of a low number.

The enamels are arranged and used in a similar manner. The gum or gum enamel is in some degree transparent, so that the light or dark shade of the gum is produced by the selection of a light or dark body.

Before proceeding further it may be proper to consider the steps preparatory to inserting a set of teeth. All the old teeth, roots and so forth, should be removed (except where sound teeth are allowed to remain, as in cases suited to the insertion of partial sets), and the rough edges of the jaw, produced by the removal of the teeth, allowed to absorb, and the gums to become hard and healthy. In cases where it is desired, a temporary set on silver is worn a year or so—after which time the mouth is ready to receive what is usually termed a permanent set of teeth.

When the patient presents him or herself after the above preparation, the first care of the dentist is to see that the jaws are in a fit state, and that there is no lurking disease to give trouble at some future time. Having made his calculations in accordance with the circumstances of the case, the dentist then proceeds to take an impression of the mouth in wax or some plastic material—and from this he makes a model of the mouth of plaster of Paris; and from this again he makes metallic dies of lead, zinc, or Babbit's metal, with which he swages a plate (previously shaped and annealed) so as to fit the plaster cast, and therefore the mouth. The plate is then placed in the roof of the mouth, and if the arch be high, and the plate skillfully prepared, it will adhere very tenaciously to the roof of the mouth, by suction or atmospheric pressure. When the plate is fitted the next thing to be done is to arrange wax upon it to represent the length and thickness of the teeth. From the plate, after it has been removed from the mouth, a plaster cast is made representing the jaw, and, by the aid of the wax, the length and thickness of the proposed teeth. This cast or preparation is called a carving model. The before mentioned body is then by skillful manipulation placed upon the model and the teeth marked out and carved to imitate nature.

If a dentist have not a quick perception, with large imitation, correct and artistic taste, he need not look for success in this important but little understood branch of the dental art.

Usually three or four teeth are carved from one piece of body called a block, and four of the blocks compose an upper or under set.

After the teeth have been taken from the model, and small platina pins are inserted whereby to attach them to the plate, they are thoroughly dried, after which they are ready for the enamel.

After being carefully enameled they are placed in a furnace, heated to a white heat, and there allowed to remain until sufficiently baked.

To superintend the baking of teeth requires experience, care and patience,—for if they are baked too hard or not enough they are alike useless and all the labor must be done over again.

After the teeth have been taken from the furnace they have then to be fitted and attached to the plate, which is first done by placing soft wax on the inside of the teeth and plate. The plate with the teeth temporarily attached is then covered up with plaster mixed with water, leaving the wax only exposed. In a short time the plaster becomes dry, and the wax is removed, leaving the teeth firmly imbedded in the plaster.

Small pieces of plate, called backs, are then fitted by means of the platina pins to the backs of the teeth—the "backs" just touching the plate. Solder is then placed upon the backs and the adjoining part of the plate, when the whole—plaster, plate, teeth and solder—are placed over a slow fire, gradually increased till the whole is heated sufficiently hot to solder, at which time it is placed under the blast of a blow-pipe, and the backs, and consequently the teeth, firmly soldered to the plate. The teeth are then very carefully cooled and placed in sulphuric acid which partially cleanses them. The dentist then very carefully examines the teeth to see if any of them are cracked by the operation of soldering; and if he finds them cracked he must repeat his labor till he gets a perfect set.

To finish the teeth all the jagged and rough pieces of solder must be filed off by hand or by machinery; and by several processes, which may not here be mentioned, the plate becomes smooth and receives a brilliant polish.

The time consumed in manufacturing a set of artificial teeth is usually four or five days.

After the teeth are made they have then to be fitted in the mouth; and where they give uneasiness they are either filed or cut away in such a manner as to make them perfectly easy and comfortable to the person wearing them. The upper and lower set of teeth have then to be antagonized with each other in such a way as to render them serviceable for mastication and for all purposes for which a set of artificial teeth is designed.