

well-known fact that caries of the teeth does commonly occur at points where the enamel is most perfectly formed. With regard to the removal of caries without filling, for the arrest of this disease, Dr. A. stated that out of 1375 cases of removal of caries, failures had occurred in less than one hundred. In all these cases the enamel had been entirely removed from the affected surfaces.

Dr. A. declared it to be a mistake to suppose he had advocated the indiscriminate filing of sound teeth. The whole gist of the views he has so earnestly advocated is the anticipation of the attack of caries by separation in cases where it is well ascertained that it is certain to occur; and he endeavoured to point out clearly the indications of a certain condition in which this treatment is advisable. Dr. A. did not find any objections had been made to his views worthy of attention. When such were offered, he would hold himself ready to give them his earnest consideration.

Dr. Bean regarded Dr. Arthur's experience and his deductions therefrom as of immense value to the profession and the public. The rule which Dr. A.'s careful observation has established in regard to *the indications which foreshadow the certain decay of all the teeth on their approximal surfaces*, had been eminently verified by his (Dr. B.'s] own practice. The only exception to Dr. A.'s rule which had suggested itself was in the case of young girls who have been in ill health during childhood, but, as is often the case, have acquired excellent health as they matured. In such cases we may find the superior incisors decayed at thirteen; but at sixteen, under improved constitutional conditions, we may find the causes of decay so far removed as to permanently arrest farther attack on the approximal surfaces of the bicuspid and molars. He thought Dr. A.'s exception of one in twenty might possibly provide for these cases. Dr. Bean did not think the enamel so essential for the protection of the teeth from decay or chemical action, as from abrasion by grinding the food, and for this reason the enamel is always thickest on the cusps of the crowns in most animals, and really thinnest on the approximal surfaces, and near the gums where the teeth are most exposed to the agents of decay. The much larger per cent. of lime contained in the enamel, would argue that it would be more readily dissolved by acids. He did not believe that *a smooth polished surface of sound dentine* would be any more liable to attack by chemical agents which cause decay than a similar surface of *enamel* under the same conditions. Decay is sometimes produced, and is often augmented by vitiated secretions from the stomach, and from a diseased mucous membrane, but never from saliva itself; which is really the alkaline corrective provided by