

largely of sugar, and yet whose teeth are unsurpassed for durability. He held the same opinion as Dr. Baillargeon, viz.: that confectioners preparations of sugar acted most injuriously.

J. A. Bazin had had considerable experience in connection with confectioners who had lost their teeth early. He mentioned a number of cases in his own practice, and believed that the temperature of the sugar had greatly to account for any effect it may have upon the teeth. Confectioners and their employees were in the habit of tasting boiling sugar to test it, and many of them ate it because of its superior taste. He related a case of a young man nineteen years old, whose business was to test boiling sugar, the enamel of whose teeth at the margins was entirely destroyed.

W. G. Beers does not believe that sugar has any immediate or direct effect upon the teeth. If used moderately, he thought the principal secretions of the mouth, which are normally alkaline, would have the effect of neutralizing any acid that might form; but if used in excess, the sugar then fermented in the mouth, and secretions were produced which disintegrated the enamel and dentine. Acetic acid is formed in the mouth, which has a strong affinity for the tooth structure.

W. R. Patton said that sugar, like starch, was one of the principal constituents of our most nutritious food, and that if the mouth was properly cleansed, it would have no harmful result.

H. D. Ross believed that even sugar in excess would have no baneful effect, if proper attention was paid to hygiene. It nourished the tissues, and was, he would submit, a necessity for healthy action of the nutritive vessels.

J. A. Bazin inquired the cause of the pain when a grain of sugar is taken into a sensitive cavity of a tooth.

A. Bernard believed it to be a chemical cause; that an acid was immediately produced, and had an instant effect.

W. G. Beers believed it to be altogether mechanical, similar to the effect of a grain of salt, which could not produce an acid.

J. McKee thought it was both chemical and mechanical.

J. H. Webster instanced an experiment he had made, by keeping teeth in a syrup of white sugar for over ten years. He found the teeth as perfect as ever. He believes sugar to be a preservative.

P. Baillargeon said the normal condition of the buccal secretions was preservative of the teeth; but that fermentation of sugar, or any foreign substance, changes their character, and hence the cause of caries.