

not been so extensive, perhaps, as have been those of others, but so far as they go, I think I must say that such is not the case.

That tobacco may, abstractly, be injurious to the different structures of the mouth, and still be advisable under certain circumstances, or rather, that under certain circumstances it may be the least of two evils, I think may be demonstrated. The products of the fermentation of particles of food about the teeth and gums may be, and I think are, more injurious to the structures of the mouth than are the juices of tobacco; and these particles of food are removed, in a measure, in the process of chewing tobacco, and the products of their fermentation are so diluted and washed away by the increased flow of saliva, as to be comparatively harmless. Of course, if every one took the pains to keep their teeth clean, that all persons should, this theory would at once fall to the ground; but I think my observations warrant me in saying, that as a general rule those who indulge in this filthy practice are too careless in their habits of personal cleanliness to pay much attention to their teeth.

Your statement that you "have often found the tobacco juice permeating the cementum and dentine" of the teeth of tobacco users, is not altogether explicit. If the juice of tobacco does permeate the substance of sound and apparently healthy teeth, it would seem to require no argument to prove that it is injurious, as it is generally conceded that the presence of any substance in any of the tissues of the body, not necessary to the maintenance or building up of those tissues, is unfavorable to the maintenance of a healthy condition of the parts. But you did not inform us whether you had observed those conditions in sound teeth, or whether the fluids had found their way to the interior of the teeth, through carious openings, and thus entered the canaliculi through their interior openings.

It would appear that the excessive demands upon the salivary glands caused by the use of tobacco, must result in derangement of function, and thus by its impairment of the digestive powers, have a reflex action upon the teeth.

Let us theorize as we may, the matter must be determined by the facts in the case. This calls us back to the question—are those who use tobacco more subject to diseases of the mouth and teeth than those who do not use it?