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TEETHING AND DISEASES OF CHILDREN.

How many children die, it may be asked, during the progress of dentition? Does it not then become us, as responsible beings, to seek and obviate the causes of this expenditure of human life as far as possible?

And where shall we find them? Surely not in any imperfection in the Creator. All His works were perfect. We are therefore necessarily obliged to look within ourselves for the solution of this question; and if we come to the subject with the honest intention of discovering the truth, we shall not long remain in ignorance.

We should call that physician deranged, or at least suppose him unpardonably ignorant, who, in an incipient stage of fever, should prescribe stimulants which would increase the symptoms; and yet, in opposition to all the known laws of nature, we give our children exciting and stimulating food and drink, and wonder why they thus suffer. During the period of what is commonly called cutting teeth, there is always more or less irritation; therefore particular attention should be given to the diet both of the nurse and infant, as whatever affects the nurse will injure the child. And from this cause alone may proceed those violent bowel complaints which cause the little sufferer so much pain, and very frequently result in death.

If parents would but awake to the importance of this subject, that so deeply concerns the welfare of those so dear to them, our newspapers would not so frequently have the mournful tale to tell of children sent to an untimely grave.

Our Maker undoubtedly, in creation, intended comfort and happiness. He therefore never could have allowed one law so to interfere on another as to cause suffering and death to innocence, on the development of these organs. It becomes, then, an indispensable duty on the part of parents to examine the subject for themselves; and when their practice is in accordance with the laws of nature, their own happy experience will corroborate the truth of these remarks.

It is a fact, well attested, that whatever is wrong in the mother's diet injures the child, even when the mother does not feel the immediate effects. Among the lower animals this fact has been more particularly observed. It is known that calves have been poisoned

through the medium of the milk received from the cow, while the effects on the cow were scarcely discernible.

The surest way to trace disease to its original source is to endeavor to point out cause and effect. Ignorance of the laws of nature is the stumbling-block that lies in the way of mankind; and when artificial regimen is allowed in the management of children, penalties sure to follow; whereas brutes, guided by instinct, seldom fail in rearing their progeny. It is true that domestic animals are exceptions to the general rules, and that they are equally susceptible of being diseased as man.

Perhaps the advice to the mother of Samson would not be out of place to those who are not above it: "Now, therefore, I pray thee, drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing."

If mothers are willing to risk their own health to gratify their artificial appetites, indulging in exciting and stimulating food and drink, let them have some regard for their offspring. It would be far better, in such circumstances, the child should be weaned, and fed on cow's milk, where the animal is kept on its natural food. During teething, the child ought to receive less nourishment than at other times, and also at proper intervals, which will lessen the blood, and thereby reduce inflammation of the gums and surrounding parts; should the child manifest a desire for food between meals, do not indulge it, for if so, you make bad worse. Let your actions be governed by judgment and discretion, and not let the feelings control the reasoning faculties; and, as a general rule, there will be no necessity for lancing the gums, except in some cases of delicate children.

SECONDARY CAUSES.

Children originally may have good constitutions, but while the teeth are forming the child may become sick; medicine is administered, which may only affect the secretions for a time; that portion of the teeth deposited from the impure secretions will be most liable to decay. If the child is salivated, it will affect all of the teeth more or less. Teeth, from this cause, frequently commence decaying soon after they appear. In other cases, when salivation is carried too far, it will stop the deposit entirely, which will cause irritation and pain.

Parents should see to it that their children

who inherit a delicate or diseased organization of the teeth should have them properly attended to, as much mischief may sometimes arise from carelessness and neglect during the time that the temporary teeth are being shed. When the permanent teeth make their appearance behind the temporary ones, the latter should be at once removed; if not, the permanent teeth will take a false position, and the child, when it arrives at the age of manhood or womanhood, will present a deformity which at that time cannot be easily remedied. It costs nothing to have a child's teeth looked at, three or four times a year, by a dentist, and by so doing, any approaching disease or deformity may be detected in time, and a proper remedy applied.

TOBACCO AND THE TEETH.

THE opinion is greatly prevalent that, whatever may be the other effects of tobacco, it certainly preserves the teeth, especially when chewed. Common, however, and even plausible as the opinion is, it is not difficult to show that it is very far from having its foundation in fact.

The soundness of teeth will always bear an exact proportion to the soundness and firmness of the gums, and of the lining membrane of the mouth, and the whole alimentary canal. But, that tobacco makes the gums loose and spongy, and injures the lining membrane of the alimentary canal, especially that part of it called the stomach, is as well attested as any fact in physiology. The application of tobacco, therefore, to the inside of the mouth and to the gums—if the foregoing principle is correct—instead of preserving the teeth, cannot otherwise than hasten their decay.

And so, in point of fact, we find it. The teeth of those who use tobacco are in a less perfect state than those of other people,—I mean those whose habits are no worse than theirs in other respects. For there are many more things which injure teeth as well as tobacco; and it would be unfair to compare the tobacco-chewer, whose habits may be correct in other respects, with those individuals who, though they use no tobacco, are yet addicted to gluttony or drunkenness, or have had their teeth spoiled by poisonous medicines.

The teeth of some tobacco-chewers, it is true, do not ache; for the tobacco, at least for a time, stupifies the nerves. Nor are there wanting cases, here and there, of old tobacco-