

Stomatitis and other diseases of the mouth induce a morbid as well as a more profuse secretion of mucus, which has always an acid reaction, is extremely viscid and is imparted by its animal principle, *mucosine*, and clings to the teeth most tenaciously. It is secreted alone in the advanced stage of fevers, or diseases attended with fever, but in health it is neutralized by the other salivary fluids which are alkaline, except during sleep, when it is the only active salivary secretion.

Mercury, when administered, does not act directly upon the dental organs, but causes a profuse secretion and vitiation of the oral fluids, which produces gingivitis, resulting in an undue flow of mucus at the margins of the gums, having a direct influence upon the unprotected dentine at the necks of the teeth, where we find the junction of the enamel and cementum. After the effects of the mercury in the system have subsided, to reduce the inflammation of the gums a resolvent should be prescribed; in consequence I would recommend the use of the following gargle and mouth-wash, which is beneficial in such cases.

R. Potassæ Chloras 1 dr., or, R. Potassium Iodii 2 gr. to 1 dr.

Aqua, 1 oz.

M.

Persons suffering with dyspepsia or mercurial ptyalism, should be cured before any operations upon the teeth are attempted. They should also be instructed to consult the dental surgeon after recovery from any serious malady. We dentists must educate our people to the appreciation of dental services, and impress their minds with the idea, *that a normal condition of the teeth is absolutely necessary to the preservation of the general health.*

Pthisis pulmonalis is accompanied with fever which acts upon the buccal secretions as already described, and by the continued exhalation of the gases generated by the diseased lungs, and purulent expectoration. It may also depend upon the improper nourishment of the teeth, from the absence in the system of a sufficient amount of phosphates.

Syphilis produces a vitiated state of the glandular system, and in that manner acts indirectly upon the organs of mastication.

Amenorrhœa acts upon the teeth by influencing a change of the fluids of the body, the saliva being of the number. That is the reason why the teeth of females, on an average, decay more readily than those of males.