

deny that the most scientific and profound literature in our specialty is altogether foreign to our hemisphere ; that until certain books were compiled to order, some of which are bare-faced plagiarisms of British or German productions, American dental colleges were taught the science of dentistry from these foreign text-books. Most of our advancement has been made along mechanical lines, the mere prosthetic, and little or nothing in the investigation of those embryonic conditions which lie at the base of the predisposing causes of poorly calcified teeth. No complaint of this sort can be made as to the study of the relation of fermentation to caries, the fungi of the mouth, etc., so carefully investigated by Dr. W. D. Miller, of Berlin, Germany ; but when we reflect that the special disease of caries is increasing in all civilized countries, not merely like a transient epidemic, which we prepare to battle with until we can safely predict its disappearance, but as a physiological certainty in by far the largest proportion of healthy children of healthy parents ; when we consider the fact that probably not a hundred people could be found in this city between the ages of fifteen and twenty who have escaped diseased teeth, and that the majority of children do not attain their sixth year free from this calamity, when we reflect upon this connection of caries with a period when nutrition is most active, and "decay" should be anomalous, it would seem that there is here a neglected field for scientific research. I look with horror on such statements, that in one dental office, or rather *abattoir* in New York, 15,000 teeth were extracted last year ; that from four to five tons of gold, forty-five of silver and tin, besides several tons of other plastics, were used in the United States alone last year ; while it is estimated that 6,000,000 of artificial teeth were inserted, and 20,000,000 of human teeth sacrificed by neglect.

Where is this to end ? Is the hypothesis, founded upon the laws of descent and adaptation, that the offspring of those who have lost their teeth early, might be born without tooth-germs, to become probable ? Is there to be a generation born without teeth, as they say our distant ancestors predicted that which has come to pass, that their distant successors would be born without tails ? Can we grow better teeth ? Can we do anything to control nutrition during the formative period ? What are the disturbing and favoring influences of calcification ? Do you not think that the imper-