

morbid changes in the tissues, in which changes vascular and nervous influence, may, perhaps, have no share, but which are not produced by external agents. By vital reaction, I mean any change in the tissues not solely induced and produced by external agents."

The author establishes the truth of this definition on anatomical grounds, and shows that enamel and dentine are not capable of pathological action—that it is "inconceivable in enamel, and hardly possible in dentine." Mr. Sewill is not half so unmerciful to those whom he opposes, as other honest critics, well known to us, on this continent are to each other, but his trenchant pen is unsparing when he throws on them ridicule with his facts. "A man who can speak of inflammation of enamel and dentine, or of retrograde metamorphosis of those tissues, must indeed, in a like fashion, believe that anatomical fact may be carried too far, and that it is better to rely sometimes, not upon facts, but rather upon the phantasm of a vivid imagination."

We purposed giving our readers a more extended review of this important little book, which we are glad to learn, will, with the author's valuable work on Dental Surgery, have a new edition, but the necessity for this is very agreeably removed by a contribution forwarded us by the author, in reply to some of our past convictions, and which appears among our Original Communications.

We have found this book of such absorbing interest that it has been carried with us a dozen times as a choice companion. It has been a luxury to return to it. It not only gives one the enjoyment of new ideas, but it suggests others, and its language is far removed from that sort of mystification and verbal murder, too prevalent in many of our dental associations, by men who sacrifice sense to efforts at originality.

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A STATISTICAL INQUIRY AS TO THE RESULT OF THE IMMEDIATE TREATMENT OF PULPLESS AND ABSCESSSED TEETH. By Geo. Cunningham, B.A., D.M.D., Cambridge, England.

Should the roots of pulpless or abscessed teeth be ever treated and filled at one sitting, irrespective of their previous conditions? Not every practitioner is competent to give an answer, because not every one has proceeded upon the statistical method employed by Dr. Cunningham. There are lots of people who believe that one swallow does make a summer, and who fancy that one or two successes make failure in all impossible.

At the Washington Congress, Dental Section, 1887, the author contributed one of the most valuable of all the communications, which provoked inter-