

greenish-brown color, and adheres to the teeth very firmly, and is sometimes in such thin scale as to render its removal very difficult. Of the two forms of calculus, salivary and serumal, the latter is more commonly associated with this suppurative inflammation than the former.

This pathological condition of the tissues about the teeth causes a serous exudation and diapedesis of the white blood corpuscles, which all combine to form this harder variety, known as serumal calculus.

Although pyorrhœa alveolaris depends almost entirely upon local causes, yet it is affected, no doubt, by any unfavorable diathesis which may aid local causes in producing more serious results than would be possible under more favorable systematic conditions. Low vitality, and all diseases which affect the circulation, may be looked upon as predisposing causes of pyorrhœa alveolaris.

Dr. Black contends that this disease is of a purely local origin, while Dr. Atkinson believed it to be from constitutional causes. There seems, however, to be good reasons for believing, with Prof. Truman, that the causes of this disease are both of a predisposing and of an exciting nature. In the treatment of this pathological condition, all teeth and roots of teeth which are so badly decayed, or so loose, as to be past restoring to usefulness, should be removed at once, for if allowed to remain they would be a constant source of irritation. Then the removal of all deposits from the teeth is of very great importance, and on the thoroughness with which this part of the operation is done will depend, to a great extent, the results of further treatment. The removal of the deposits from the roots requires skill and patience on the part of the operator, for lying close against the sides of the roots there will be found very thin scales which are so smooth that their outlines are with the greatest difficulty detected by the touch; for this reason much care is required for their complete removal. This calculus is an irritant, no matter how small the amount, and any particles left will serve to continue the inflammation. The instruments for this operation should be narrow and slender, and formed with care and delicacy. The bulk of calculus may be removed by curved or hoe-shaped instruments, but for the removal of the last portions, or for serumal calculus, the instruments should be so formed as to