

interference with a clean healthy mouth. I, however, take the liberty to quote the opinion of a dental authority on the question (2), who says: "Artificial plates (dentures) are at times not above suspicion; especially is this the case when roots of carious or even sound teeth have been left in the jaw, and the whole covered over with a plate. Here, again, ulceration, chronic inflammation, and septic absorption take place, but a less obvious condition may be present. The bands or clasps for retaining the plates often cause ulceration and damage to the soft tissue, and even in a well-fitting denture, most frequently in the lower jaw behind the incisor teeth, large inflamed areas may be found, due to the mere pressure of the plates on the gums, already lowered in vitality by the presence of infected processes along the gum margins.

The following history of a rheumatic affection from this cause reported by the same authority agrees in principle with some under my own observation, and illustrates the point.

"The patient, a man of 38, was suffering from acute pain and swelling in both knees and both feet, ulnar deflection of both hands, and acute pain and swelling on the dorsal aspects, fluid and deformity of the left elbow joint, and of the left shoulder joint, and anaemia and neurasthenia, partly owing to constant pain, and partly toxic. The patient had been under all sorts of treatment, residence at continental and English Spas, had been to the Canary Islands, had taken vast quantities of iodide of potassium, had had massage, electric baths, ionisation and "Christian Science," and all with no avail.

"His mouth was a veritable gold mine, he had four bridges, two in the upper and two in the lower jaw, and four gold crowns in addition to the bridges; pus was welling up from his gums in all directions. The builder of the bridges told him he could do nothing for him as he had rheumatism in his gums. He was treated by the removal of all the crowns and bridges, and by vaccines made from his own organisms. He made a slow but steady recovery, and is now able to resume his ordinary avocation, which he had been obliged to give up for three years." It is only fair to say, the expression in the above quotation, "that the condition was due to rheumatism of the gums," might only be expected from one who would insert such faulty work.

I have endeavored to show by a few specific cases, the definite connection which diseased conditions of the teeth have in causing rheumatism.

While this is a frequent cause and important to be recognized, a more frequent cause, and one sometimes difficult of recognition, is that condition of the gums and alveolar process usually described by the term—pyorrhea alveolaris.