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DOMINION DENTAL JOURNAL

(Official Organ of the Canadian Dental Associations.)



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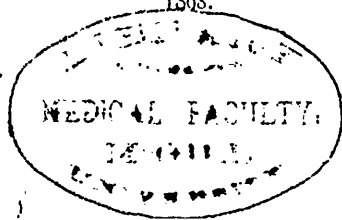
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No. 1.

Original Communications.

NICOTIANA.*

BY A. C. COGSWELL, L.D.S., D.D.S., HALIFAX, N.S.

GENTLEMEN,—It requires sometimes more than the courage of one's convictions to express an honest opinion, much less caution in attacking a favorite of the people. A prudent man, one who wishes to sail quietly down the popular stream, would be disposed rather to flatter and applaud the object of their affections. But an honest man, who may differ a little from others, as a prudent one, can never flatter where he feels a friendship.

Facts are said to be stubborn things, but from these we form conclusions which, carefully analyzed, enable the unbiased and unprejudiced to return an honest and conscientious verdict.

History records that the name of Nicotine, or Tobacco, was said to be from one Jean Nicotte, who first introduced it into France, hence Nicoteana; or, as said by others, by Jacobius Nicotius, Ambassador to the Court of Portugal from Francis II., King of France, he having purchased some of the seeds of this plant from a Dutchman in 1560, who had brought them from America, and from this seed it was brought to France; Sir Francis Drake carried it to England, and Sir Walter Raleigh first brought it into fashion; the dried plant and leaf was afterward imported from Tobago, and hence its present name tobacco.

The common tobacco, so called Virginia (*N. Tabacum*), is a native of the warm parts of America, the cultivation of which had extended, before the discovery of the New World by Columbus, far to the north of the plant in which it is indigenous. We are

* Read before the Dental Association at Wolfville, N.S., Aug. 25, 1897.

also informed that when Columbus visited the West Indies he found the natives smoking this plant, made into cylindrical rolls wrapped in maize leaf.

It also seems from records of old that the American Indians have been using the plant from unknown antiquity, and with them it ever has a religious character in connection with their worship and all important transactions; thus the calumet, or pipe-of-peace, is indispensable to the ratification of a treaty, and smoking together has even greater significance of friendship than eating together has among other nations, believing that the Great Spirit smelled a sweet savor as the smoke of the sacred plant ascended to heaven.

There seems to be no record of the use of tobacco in Shakespeare's time, while it is supposed to have been used only by the wealthy, as the price was very high, and smoked in small pipes.

The use and application of tobacco from its first discovery has been various. As a medicine it has been recommended, and it has been used where digitalis has been unsuccessful. Dr. Flowers, an English physician, in some cases of dropsy recorded its use with beneficial results.

The great Linnaeus, in classifying this plant, places this genus as one of those having five stamens and one style, having eleven species, one of which is hyoscyemus, from its similarity to the deadly henbane. He also places tobacco in the class of lueidae, which signifies pale, ghastly, livid, dismal, fatal, classing it also with other poisonous plants, bearing the name of Atropa, one of the furies. The oil of this plant is one of the strongest vegetable poisons, inasmuch that no animal has been known to resist its mortal effects.

Tobacco, when first taken into the stomach, creates nausea and external disgust; if swallowed, it excites violent convulsions in the stomach and bowels, in the effort to eject the poison upward or downwards, and, if not speedily and entirely ejected, it produces vertigo, faintness, and prostration of all the senses, and in many instances death has followed. For the destruction of insect life on plants, flowers, especially roses, it is used as a decoction by florists, botanists and others successfully during the blooming seasons.

The excessive use of tobacco is not confined to America alone. So general had become its consumption in the seventeenth century that much was done to prevent its use and suppress the increasing and prevailing habit. In Turkey, Pope Urban VIII. and Innocent XI., as well as priests and sultans made strenuous efforts to suppress it by declaring it a crime to smoke or chew the plant, and we have it recorded that Sultan Amucet IV. decreed punishment of the most cruel kind of death, by having the pipes of smokers thrust through their noses, and in Russia the noses of smokers

were actually cut off in the seventeenth century; nor did this opposition to its use confine itself to Turkey and Russia alone. We are further informed that King James I. of England was so averse to its use that he issued a "Counterblast to Tobacco," in which he describes its use as a custom "loathsome to the eye, hateful to the nose, harmful to the brain, dangerous to the lungs, and in the black, stinking fume thereof nearest resembling the horrible Stygian smoke of the pit that is bottomless." Among the Chinese, so general has become the use of tobacco that even girls eight or nine years of age are known to wear an appendage or pockets to their dress, lined with silk, for the express purpose of holding a pipe and tobacco for frequent use.

Another form of using tobacco, prevalent in the seventeenth century and early part of the eighteenth, was in the shape of snuff, and as late as the middle of this century, to my own knowledge, snuff was sold by many of the grocers as well as in all the stores to men and women of all classes. Again, in the Southern States of America the fashion of dip, so called, at one time was quite prevalent; this was common among the women and girls, and was practised by using a porous piece of wood or straw, placing one end in the snuff, the other in the mouth, and drawing up the snuff into the mouth, which was allowed to remain a short time, and then the mixture was thrown out by expectoration.

Fashion and habit, no doubt, are responsible for the introduction and use of this weed.

Habit, 'tis said, blunts impressions, while constant use and familiarity to many things increases the desire. Is it not the fact, that the first effect on the boy or man who uses tobacco is far from pleasant, and by the nature of the weed invariably produces a nauseating effect? It is most assuredly repugnant to nature, and to all natural desires, and therefore seems most strange that this poisonous weed should be used in any form. Still we find by constant use the natural, as well as mental impressions, become so familiar to it, that what was first so exceedingly repulsive, slowly and gradually becomes a fixed habit. One would most naturally suppose its first use would tend to breed only contempt for so unnatural a use, as it invariably leaves the most unpleasant recollections in the mind of the beginner. It is thought by some that with habitual smokers the tongue is rendered dry and partly insensible by smoking, and the sense of taste either vitiated or partly destroyed, if not wholly, and from the dryness of the tongue induced by smoking, it is considered by many writers to induce thirst, which leads also to the habit of drinking.

Prof. Thornton, of the Royal College of London, in one of his lectures to his students, remarked, "that in using tobacco in any way, to smoke or chew, nature is being perverted," and when so

perverted excites a desire, which appetite or desire often becomes inordinate and ungovernable. "Reaction, or physical resistance will," says the Professor, "like that of the moral, lessen in proportion to the repetition of the attacks, and then those guards of health desert nature and go over to the side of her enemy, and thus we see how intemperate drinking and immoderate smoking tobacco or opium first began their destructive career."

The first effect of tobacco on those who have surmounted the natural abhorrence of it, and who have not only learnt to endure it, but even acquired the habit of chewing or smoking, produces a waste or vitiation of the saliva. This saliva is secreted by a complex glandular apparatus from the most refined arterial blood, and constantly distils into the mouth in health, and from the mouth into the stomach, at the rate of twelve ounces a day. It resembles much the gastric juice of the stomach, and its importance in digestion may be imagined after listening to the words of the great Dr. Boerharre, who, in one of his lectures at the Academy, remarked, "Whenever the saliva is lavishly spit away, we remove one of the strongest causes of hunger and digestion; the chyle prepared without this fluid is depraved, and the blood is vitiated for want of it." "I once tried," said the great philosopher and physician, "an experiment on myself, by spitting out all the saliva. The consequence was I lost my appetite; hence we see the pernicious effect of chewing and smoking;" and the conclusion by the philosopher was, that chewing and smoking tobacco was pernicious to many, especially those who are thin and pale and of a consumptive tendency, by destroying the appetite and weakening digestion. At one time it was thought when the plant was first introduced into England that it was an antidote to hunger, but it was observed that the number of hypochondriacal and consumptive people was greatly increased by its use, and, among the testimony of others, we find also that of Prof. Cullens, in his "Materia Medica," stating, "that constant chewing tobacco destroyed the appetite, by depriving the constitution of too much saliva." This may be also the case from smoking if expectoration be indulged in too freely.

It is said that one of the kings of Spain was afflicted with an offensive breath, to remedy which the physician advised His Majesty to chew a composition of gum-arabic, ambergris and other perfumes, the use of which occasioned a great expenditure of saliva. The courtiers from the vanity of imitating their superiors, went very generally into the same customs. The consequence was, that those who also followed the fashion with ardor, lost their appetites and became emaciated, and consumption increased so fast among them that the practice was forbidden by royal edict.

Those who do not eject the saliva from tobacco, but swallow the mixture, usually find it induces faintness, palpitation of the heart, trembling of the limbs, and, sooner or later, some chronic trouble.

The habit of tobacco users expectorating is becoming so prevalent, that to pass along some of the side-walks of our cities, one is ashamed to find so many blotches of black saliva, pools, oftentimes at the corners of streets, where boys and men congregate, so much so that ladies can scarcely pass without their garments being soiled from such accumulations, and while passing some of the hotels we find those occupying the verandas using the sidewalk for cuspadores; and as for smoking rooms in hotels, one requires to study navigation so as to find their way around the numerous array of spittoons, so placed on guard as to act as receptacles for the choice remains of cigars and extract of tobacco.

"CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE.

(Parody.)

"Cuspadores on the right,
Cuspadores on the left,
Cuspadores all round and more,
Charge, gentlemen,
Charge, and aim for,
The cuspadore."

The habit of using tobacco is no doubt largely increasing annually, not only in the United States, but also in the Dominion of Canada, and most markedly in all the large cities, towns and villages. The amount of inland revenue derived last year, and by our Government, from tobacco, was not less than \$2,557,000, and on cigars \$690,000, making a total of \$3,247,000, for a population of five million inhabitants, by possibly not less than one million males who were consumers. Add to the revenue the cost of the article, and the sum would seem almost incredible—such a waste of money, time and health to be thrown away as useless, with not the slightest benefit in any way to the human race. From observations made while sitting in front of a large hotel, in July, in one of our principal cities of the Dominion, I feel convinced that I am underestimating when I say that at least one-fourth of the male population of the said city use tobacco in some form, for from one hundred passing within one hour between eight and nine o'clock, one-fourth were smoking pipes or cigars, and many others who were not indulging at the time, were known to be in the habit of using tobacco daily in some form.

We may ask—How many are the ills of life caused, no doubt directly and indirectly, by the use of tobacco? Some of these may be named, such as heart-failure, narcotic paralysis, cancer, consumption, amarois, preceded often by muscular indolence, loss of appetite, and a depraved condition of the body and mind. Prof. Thornton has written and lectured to his students as follows: "I am entirely convinced that smoking and chewing tobacco injures

ultimately the hearing, smell, taste and teeth;" while we all know, as remarked Hippocrates, that good teeth conduce to long life, because he who does not masticate his food perfectly and mix it thoroughly with a due proportion of saliva will find his digestion fail, and this failure will gradually open the avenues of death.

The premature loss of teeth to those who use tobacco in any form, and more especially to excess, by many can be proved beyond a shadow of doubt. To those of the profession who are called to operate on the mouths and teeth of such persons, it is needless to say it is often found that the odor from such mouths are steeped with the last fumes of the pipe, the teeth blacker than the ace of spades, especially on the lingual surface, covered with nicotine and germs, spongy, and receding from the necks of the teeth, usually attacking first the upper molars, causing exposure of the palatal roots, loosening of the same, and attended frequently with general elongation, pylorus and premature loss. Add to this frequent unpleasantness, and odor from the gums and teeth arising from this condition of things, worse than the last, and nothing can be more disgusting and disagreeable to work over than a mouth of that description. I have sometimes thought that the black hole in Calcutta would be paradise compared to the mouths of some old smokers, for if the fumes of such mouths alone were inhaled by the parties themselves for any length of time, the only wonder would be how they could exist by breathing such impure exhalations charged with the germs of death. I have met also with men who, from the excessive use of the pipe, had the roof of their mouths covered with small blisters, arising from the fumes of tobacco, that the mucus membrane presented the appearance as if boiled, from the hot tobacco smoke.

Again, smokers often present artificial dental sets, the plates of which are completely covered with nicotine, and blacker than Egyptian darkness, containing sufficient poison to destroy animal life.

And so prevalent has become the use of tobacco, that to satisfy the demands of many, three of the back seats in all the open trams are reserved for smokers; smoking cars on railway trains, and smoking concerts where the fumes of cigars and pipes fill the room for hours, for the benefit of lovers of the plant.

Go where we will, on the street, on the steamers, at open air concerts, in public, in private, it seems that tobacco has become one of the most fashionable things of the day, and while so many men have become addicted to its use, possibly many seemingly without any apparent injury to themselves, yet with others we know it to be otherwise, and so prevalent is it becoming among the boys, and young men of this age, that its injurious effects are now recognized by many of the leading men, and professors of colleges in the

United States and in the Dominion of Canada. Quite recently the Board of Managers of some of the Boston and Ohio universities have made stringent rules, forbidding its students to use tobacco in any form, owing to its injurious effects on the mind and body. Laws have also been made forbidding the sale of cigars and cigarettes to minors or boys under ten years of age, to prevent, if possible, its increasing use and injurious effects on the young and rising generations.

I have thus glanced only on some of the facts in connection with tobacco, and have said nothing as to the expense individually, both to the smoker and chewer, which possibly may be of interest to those who have not estimated its cost.

The amount of tobacco in the shape of cigars consumed by one man for one year seems almost incredible, especially if he be classed among the so-called *good* smokers. Among some of the great smokers of cigars may be named the late General Ulysses S. Grant, who, it was said, died from cancer produced by excessive smoking. Mark Twain, or Chas. H. Clements, gave his testimony which was published in the *Christian Union* several years ago, a paper then published and edited by H. W. Beecher, and now edited and issued by Lyman Abbott, of New York, and known as the *Outlook* in journal form. The statement made by Mr. Clements was that for years he usually smoked on an average ten cigars a day, and some days had done better. General Blank, who was stationed at Halifax some years ago, was seldom without a cigar, while his aide-de-camp was obliged to give up smoking after using it for years, owing to its producing heart failure. A captain of one of our well-known steamers assured me that he frequently smoked twelve cigars in the twenty-four hours for weeks at a time. Many others could be named whose consumption of tobacco seems almost beyond a possibility. Now if we estimate the cost of such a habit, from which so little good results, it seems a great waste of money, which could be used for so many better purposes. Let us, for instance, estimate the cost for cigars alone for one or ten years. Take, for example, Mr. Clement's consumption: at ten a day would give 3,650 a year, add 100 more for friends, gives 3,750, and for ten years not less than 37,500 cigars, which at 10 cts. each would give the large sum of \$3,750.00 for indulgence in smoking alone. Also the late General Grant's bill for cigars, who for some years, it was said, had them manufactured for him expressly at a cost of 25 cts. apiece. One other case in the Province of Nova Scotia: A Mr. Bond, residing in one of the large towns in this Province some years ago, consumed from twenty years of age up to eighty, at the time of his death, 5½ lbs. of fig-twist tobacco a month, the cost of which at that time was 50 cts. a lb., making in sixty years, at 66 lbs a year, 3,960 lbs., costing \$1,980.00 for chewing and smoking during his life-time, equal to the cost of 400 barrels flour at \$5.00 a barrel.

These I have referred to, no doubt, are a few of the exceptional cases where tobacco is used, or has been, to great excess, and, as some of the parties lived to a good old age, the argument may be advanced that tobacco could *not have been an injury*. Possibly not, as I have said before, in some cases, where the constitutions of the parties are strong and rugged, accustomed to outdoor exercise and exposed to changes, tending to make the body vigorous and healthy; yet, on the other hand, many who are not so happily constituted, and whose mode of living is not conducive to health or long life, and who can ill afford to indulge in any luxury or excess at the cost of health or mental activity, are suffering daily from its use and abuse; and how often we read of deaths in the daily papers from tobacco. Only a few days since two were recorded, of which are following: one a youth of only seven years, the other a clever electrical expert, age thirty-six years; both died from the effect of cigarette smoking.

In conclusion, allow me to thank you for your indulgence in listening to this imperfect paper, but should anything emanating from it enable any of you to come to the same conclusion I have long since arrived at, namely, that the use of tobacco is not conducive to mind or body, and an expensive luxury, for which small returns, if any, are given for so great a sacrifice, I shall be glad to know that some one has benefited from what has been so imperfectly given to the members of the Dental Association.

HINTS.

BY A LAZY MAN.

1. You can buy prepared square cakes of pumice stone which are very convenient for cleansing the hands, polishing dirt off tables, and softening the stiff bristles on your chin before shaving. Only be sure and get it all off your chin before using soap and your razor.
2. After removing the bolts of your flasks, dip the screw in a bottle of oil convenient for the purpose, and they will always be easy for use again.
3. A first-rate laboratory bench-block may be improvised by securing on the table, one of the rubber-tipped door stops sold for the purpose of keeping doors from damaging the wall. They can be screwed into the table anywhere and in any position.
4. If your hands are dirty you will dirty rubber in packing sets, and the dirt remains, and even seems to penetrate deeper than the

surface you wish to polish. The pumice block is a good thing to clean solid rubber before you pack.

5. A common soup ladle with holes made in the bottom to let the water out, is useful to lift hot flasks out of hot water.

6. A small hoe, used to scale fish, is useful for scraping hard plaster from the bench.

7. Articulators and head-rests are two articles which the capacities of our mechanics should improve.

8. I never need rubber scrapers—hardly ever. If you prepare your pattern plate properly, and are not too mean to buy well-made pattern wax, your plate should come out ready for the sand-paper.

9. Do not use oil or shellac varnish to keep the second part of the plaster from sticking to the first in filling flasks. Keep a pot of the soap suds; after soaping the plaster, run water over it. It will not stick.

10. You can buy at any hardware store a neat, round and cheap asbestos plate on which to put rubber when you are packing. Clean and convenient.

11. You can buy in rubber stores, rubber fingers, which are useful if you have to finger foul mouths, and are just the thing to have on the finger of the hand which you use in the mouth when keeping the lips and tongue out of the way in extractions.

12. If you use beeswax or compound, have it ready rolled in thin sheets to save time.

13. Sulphate of potash always kept uncovered loses its value for hardening plaster.

14. If you insist upon placing a porcelain crown, either with or without a collar, upon a very hollow root with an opening larger at the neck than towards the apex, do not use amalgam as a retaining cement around the metal pivot. Thoroughly dry the root cavity; wipe it out finally with the merest suggestion of oil of cazeput, then pack it tightly with warmed gutta percha—not the pink used for pattern plates—heat the metal pivot; work it into the gutta percha, packing as well as you can. I prefer it to anything else.

15. After operating for patient afflicted with pulmonary tuberculosis, sterilize your instruments, hands, etc., as carefully as if you had been operating for a patient suffering from syphilis.

16. Some of the trouble which occurs in the vulcanizing of dental caoutchouc, is occasioned by a hap-hazard way of raising and

retaining the temperature. If the directions advise you to keep the temperature at 315 degrees Fahr. for one hour and a quarter, it is a mistake to keep it at 320 degrees for an hour. In the matter of proper vulcanizing, the slow and sure method in heating and cooling is the best.

17. If you buy a new drug, do not use it until you know all that is worth knowing about its action and uses, and if a poison, its dangers and its antidotes.

18. A properly adjusted Auer light is away ahead of any electric light, if you are obliged to use artificial light at the operating chair. It is nearer the natural light of day than any other.

19. Keep your dental engine, chair and spittoon covered from dust at night. Do not use too much oil. Dirt is the bane of the dentist.

20. If you have rough hands from handling flanks, etc., wash well with hot water and soap when going to bed, rub vaseline on them thoroughly, and pull on a pair of large-sized gloves.

Too lazy to say more just now.

"EXPERIENCE."

By L. D. S.

He is a wise young man who is eager to profit by the experience of his seniors. Experience is a thing which cannot be found in books, or even obtained altogether from the experience of our seniors. One must get the most of it for himself. It is not an article that he can wholly transmit to others. It is a part and parcel of his own individual existence, as much as his own breathing and sleeping and eating. In trade and commerce, politics and the professions, it is a commodity of commercial value, which is revered and respected by wise and thoughtful men.

In the December issue editorial comment was made upon the want of sound judgment by many whose practical skill may be superior. It opened to my mind, as an old practitioner, a whole flood of recollections past and present, in my own career and that of others, and brought back vividly to me many a disappointing moment. Any one who ever witnessed the eminent and aged Dr. W. H. Atkinson, with his double pair of spectacles, performing the most exquisite operations, or who is familiar with the skilful work and sound judgment of the older school of operators in Europe and America, must appreciate the vigor of mind and body which makes such work possible. One does not find men of experience risking

the wreck of reputation upon the wholesale insertion of crowns and bridges, and indulgence in the fantastic fads—or frauds—of many of the junior practitioners. Perhaps I should not call them "frauds"; generally they do not know any better, and knowledge is the result of experience. A man of experienced practice can readily acquire any new practical idea which presents itself. But his experience helps him whether to accept or reject. And the judgment necessary in the latter is quite as valuable as in the former. We English people would be all the better for a little more of the Chinese reverence and respect for age and experience.

HEREDITARY CLEFT PALATE.

BY W. G. B.

Some years ago when I was much interested in the mechanical restoration of cleft-palates, by means of an improvement upon the Kingsley method suggested to me by Dr. E. B. Bogue, of New York, the number of cases which came to me for consultation was far more numerous than I had either the time or the inclination to tackle. The cost of a scientifically constructed apparatus (\$400.00), was, of course, a bar to its general use, and the many cheap devices offered deterred me from wasting further time in the matter. One early case, which I took to New York, and had constructed under Dr. Bogue's personal supervision, was in every sense a success, but the patient was obliged to have the velum removed, and an accident having happened to the type-metal moulds in his possession, it was impossible properly to renew that important part of structure; notwithstanding, the patient continues to use the old velum, curled up out of shape.

In studying the history of the many cases I met at the time, I had never been able to verify any proof of the hereditary character of cleft-palate, in spite of the fact that such cases were on record. Mr. Ramsay, in a paper read by him at the Odontological Society of Great Britain, in 1865, repudiated the hereditary character, and, if I am not mistaken, this opinion was held by Sir William Fergusson. Mr. Francis Mason, of St. Thomas' Hospital, however, cites several cases which came under his own observation. I have been much interested in the recent discovery of a well-known family in Montreal, in which there were three cases—two sisters and a brother, and a case of a French-Canadian cabman, who had himself a complete fissure of the hard and soft palates, and whose eldest boy had a cleft of the hard palate complicated with hare-lip.

Proceedings of Dental Societies.

ONTARIO DENTAL SOCIETY, TORONTO.—DR. MELOTTE'S CLINIC, JULY, 1897.

As I said before, this model represents a case, quite a common case, where bridges are attempted. The posterior anchorage is the second molar, and this case presents one of the difficulties hard to overcome. I had this model carved from a half section of the lower jaw. The carver has done his work well, and I believe it to be a beautiful specimen of work. You see that the occluding force of the upper teeth has worked upon the molar and tilted it forward, giving a dove-tailed space. I suggested at a meeting in Pittsburg, a year ago last January, that Dr. Angle could devise an apparatus to tilt a tooth back into its place, giving it somewhat that position, and after wearing an apparatus for a few days the difficulty would be overcome, certainly to a great extent. But, without such an apparatus, it is necessary to trim that tooth, and trim it even more than what I have done, as you see on this zinc tooth. An impression of this tooth was taken, zinc was poured in, and the tooth filed and trimmed, until we have gotten rid of considerable of the difficulty of the dove-tail space. I rather think that a bridge constructed on that would fit. I calculate, as far as I can, to construct a bridge for this large model.

Now, if there was an occluding tooth here about like that (indicating), the first thing I should do would be to take a wheel and grind off sufficient of the anterior cusps to admit of the crown of gold that I should want to have cover that portion of tooth to give strength and sufficient occluding surface to prevent the wearing. After doing that, my manner of making the crown would be to take and form a band of gold—I need not go into the detail of telling you how thick—but I should fit the band to the contour of the gum perfectly. Let it extend above the crown about as you see this. I will try it. There is nearly half an inch in this case, and proportionately the same in forming the crown.

Now, Doctor, if you will mix some plaster of paris as quickly as possible, I will show what I should do in the mouth.

I should fill in here with plaster, tamp it down, and by taking the thumb and pressing over the band producing a little pressure, which would drive the plaster about the tooth, and exclude the air.

Now, I will fill this just exactly as I would in the mouth. Suppose we have tamped it down well, and excluded all the air. Now, we will let that rest, and I will talk about it, and perhaps stop and

allow you to ask questions when I get to a point where I can do so. You see that I have taken an impression of the cusps within the band. I shall remove the band from around the tooth, and, turning it bottom side up, will look down into it, and find that I have a perfect impression of the cusps.

Now, Doctor, please melt some metal as quickly as possible. I do not suppose, gentlemen, that it is unbecoming modesty in me to speak a little about this metal. Its use has increased wonderfully. [This attempting to give a clinic and a lecture at the same time is quite a difficult matter ; but still I think I can make you understand.]

This metal was brought out in about 1887, I believe. My first exhibit of mouldine, and the metal, was at Niagara Falls. Dr. Weagant was there. They saw me make a die in just one minute. I had some ice-water. Of course, that was hurrying up, but I believe I did it in a minute. Now, this metal is called Melotte's metal the world over. I am not to blame for them calling it Melotte's metal. The fact is, it is not Melotte's metal, but if you want to call it Melotte's metal, I do not know that I can prevent you from doing so. I do not want to steal the thunder of any man who died long ago. This metal has been used a great many years, and I believe it was called Sir Isaac Newton's metal. Prof. Flagg, of Philadelphia, says, "How is it that you have taken that formula and called it yours?" I never did it. I laughed at him. I said, "You and the profession have done that." At Niagara Falls, I said to them the formula I used is so and so. Mouldine was very soon put on the market. I discovered mouldine, possibly. I was told once that a dentist, not a hundred miles from Ithaca, had discovered it twenty-five years before. I am sorry he did not let the profession know it. Well, I did let them know when I discovered mouldine, and what my discovery was with regard to the use of it. I shall not go around the world making excuses for calling that Melotte's metal. I do not care particularly. Most anything of the kind would tickle a man's vanity. Well, it has been given to me, I think, to discover a great many uses for fusible metal, and I have thought a great many times that I had reached the end of the uses ; but they keep coming.

I will digress and tell you about making a bite. Here is a case where I made a set of gum teeth, and removed it from the articulator, and I have it with me. I took an imprint of the lower plate. The posterior teeth were in. I took it, and poured fusible metal into the plaster impression, and within two minutes I cut it out, cut off the plaster, and got that (indicating). I make all my articulating models in that way, where the teeth are many, and I can do it more quickly than you can do it with modelling compound, or take an impression. If I take it in plaster I have got

something that is perfectly accurate. I endeavor to make the methods that I have discovered useful to me. Many times in working them you have to run the scale as perfectly as you would the scale in music. If you miss a note you will find your work is imperfect at the end. If you drop a stitch in knitting a stocking, and you do not pick it up, your stocking will ravel. The great trouble with dentists is they are constantly dropping stitches, and they do not seem to mind it. There, gentlemen, is where the failure comes in, in bridge-work, and failures are constantly coming all the time. We are not true to our instincts. The first thing you have to do in making a piece of work is to please yourself, and if you fail in making the lines of beauty, even in carving up a plaster model, you have lowered yourself a little. You must be the first judge; the God in you, the Divine in you, is the severest judge that you will ever have. If you evade that judgment, at the end of five or ten years you will see your mistake. Gentlemen, I tell you, you have to be careful and not drop any stitches.

Now, this is the first time I have ever attempted to do anything so large as this; but I expect to be called upon at some time to make a full set of teeth for the mouth of the Mississippi.

I am a foreigner, gentlemen; I have come from the United States, and I was shocked to-day; I didn't know whether I was in a dream, or waking up out of a nightmare; I could not just understand it, but I suppose it was a newspaper boy, and to him I heard a woman say: "I want the World, if you have got it." Well, now, that was not Queen Victoria. If it had been, I should have expected she would have been applying pretty soon for the United States to be annexed to Canada.

Gentlemen, I had the privilege, in 1890, of visiting the British Dental Association, at Exeter, England, and saw a great difference in the decorum there, and the civility in the discussions. I do not want to flatter you, but somehow or another I like your style here. I was fortunately, or unfortunately, born in the United States. My father was a Canadian—lived in Montreal. Cornell University wanted a President, and it had to come over to Canada to get one, and a worthy President he is. Many Canadians have gone over there. I think that the respectful quality is a little more prominent among the Canadian boys than American boys. We have an excess of freedom; we have the "Get there, Eli" boy, and it is a grand thing; we are making wonderful progress, now that we are all on wheels.

Again I have digressed; but here we are. Doctor, just dig that out, please! (I requested that Dr. Templeton might be called here as my assistant.)

Now, gentlemen, I have come to the very pretty point that shows the cusps exactly; and now I am in my operating room,

not in the laboratory. I will trim that out about the summit (if that is the proper thing to say about the cusp). Next, I should take and put a little wax in here, just enough to contour that slightly, but not to deface it. Now, I will take a burnisher and burnish this down. I have done this a hundred times, perhaps.

Here is a copy that I have made of the spoon. Some person, in one of the journals, suggested that taking Melotte's cup, and making a hole in the bottom of it, would make it better, and I believe he is right. Now I have an impression on that crown.

Well, gentlemen, I might as well tell you right here about this. This is my posing pad. I have a soldering pad and a posing pad.

We will just take this piece of asbestos paper and put around here, because we have nothing else. This will show you what to do when you have not what you want. Use a piece of asbestos or a thick piece of rubber-dam.

Now, you see I have got that. It is not quite hard, so we will wait a minute.

Now, supposing I wanted to make a saddle there. You need not think I would take mouldine and do that in the mouth, but I am doing it here with mouldine because I have not plaster. There is a very good reason why I should put a segment of plaster in there, and pretty soon I will tell you why; but, supposing I had taken that from a model out of the mouth, and I wanted to make a die and counter-die. Now, you see, you stick this in here; be careful not to crowd the mouldine too much, and then you pour the fusible metal in. A piece of thick rubber is better, as thick as they use for the bellows rubber. You can take these pins. This posing pad is made of layers of blotting paper. That is all it is; but that is one of the things I could not do without very well in my laboratory.

Now, I have got to the point of separating this, and I find that I have a perfect die of the crown surface of the molar.

Now, instead of making a counter-die, as I taught the profession to do, and as some get along without doing, by taking lead, and wishing to be a little different from anybody else, I take these little blocks of wood, preferably cherry, and with one blow I stamp the gold and swedge it, and so I get rid of making a counter-die.

In this case, if I should go on and complete it, and make this crown, as I could do, why I should probably have to make a counter-die for it, but you see that if I swedge this and put it on there, it will fit exactly. I will now put it on and mark it, and then the next thing is to get the fusible metal out. You put that preferably into a little ladle with some water, and boil the water, and, of course, the metal melts at boiling temperature, and melts it out. Then, be very careful to remove every trace of fusible metal. If you do not, it will, under heat, unite with the gold as quickly as

lead would, and spoil your crown. Many crowns have been spoiled in that way. I have met with all these accidents myself.

Now, gentlemen, when you take a piece of bridge-work off, don't do as an eminent dentist did in New York, where the teeth used as abutments had been destroyed by tartar following down the roots, and it was necessary to remove the bridge. He kept the bridge as an Indian would keep a scalp—to tell how many he had scalped. I think that is about the meanest trophy a man can have in his office. Accidents are liable to occur. You can see in a minute that the man who made that bridge was not to blame because the tartar came around the teeth and ran down—because pyorrhea set in. Alveolaris may be checked, in a measure, by bridging teeth. I wore a piece for fifteen years with the greatest comfort in the world. But at the end of that time I had to lose both bridges within two weeks. I have two teeth in a bottle here somewhere, showing how the tartar has gone around to the very roots, while the bridge has worn for fifteen years. I did not put in the bridge. I could not get into my own mouth to do it, but Dr. Kerr, of New York, the man who did it, did faithful work, and it gave me great satisfaction. He did it all in five hours. He is a quick worker, and if you had looked at the teeth and seen the band as it set off a little bit upon the free margin of the gum, you would have noticed that the margin was not interfered with, because that did not set right close; I did not know anything about it; perhaps it lasted longer because I didn't. I think I have occasionally failed in fitting bands as close as they ought to have been fitted.

If an artist had all the pictures he ever painted together, don't you think he would find some that ought to be thrown away, and others that were fit to hang on the wall?

Now, the posterior abutment has been formed.

If there is any gentleman would like to ask a question, very well. I told you that if this wanted thickening up here, then I would do it. In this case I would suggest another piece, and sweat them together; perhaps if you cut a piece off it would leave a little hole in the centre, and you might drop a little piece of solder in the centre and unite them. In forming these bands, I have not done so; for how long is it, Dr. Templeton, since we have used any solder for soldering up bands?

Dr. Templeton—About five years.

Dr. Melotte—Dr. Bing, of Paris, taught me how to do this. It was not new, but it was a newly applied principle in dentistry. You make a crown by means of the fire-gilding process. Dr. Clark, a retired dentist, of Saratoga Springs, formerly of New York, got a reputation there for making gold plates, held as a secret for years. His method of bending gold plates out at this line just above the gum, was to take a sheet of gold, put it in the rim

of the hand, drop a few drops of mercury on it, forming an amalgam, and squeezing out the excess of amalgam, he applied it to all the spaces over the gums and around, even filling in the spaces between the teeth and making them smooth; then squeezing out the mercury as best he could, and putting it into an oven when the fumes of mercury would escape; after evaporating the mercury he had a gold welding.

A dentist came into my office (a sort of tramp). He told me how he got through college without paying. He stayed with me about ten days. I showed him all the courtesy I could. I made a band and applied the mouldine and let the patient bite into it. I have forgotten that man's name. I am glad I have forgotten it, but he has gone away to the other side. He will find plenty of heat down there to fix his teeth. Well, I found out that he was sending circulars all over the country, advertising his patent method of uniting gold without solder, and I had one of the circulars sent to me. I found one in Ohio when I was called there, and I told them that man stole his method from me, and it belonged to Dr. Clark as far as I could trace. So you see that is the way methods go.

Now, to make the other abutment here I should proceed in the same way, and have silver ferrule formed to go on there. You will imagine that both crowns have been formed, put in place, and now comes a very important thing to do. I want you to imagine that the two crowns are in place in the mouth, that I want to get the occlusion of the teeth, and get it perfect. I do not know but what I would make a man a present of something that did not cost me very much, if he could make a specimen, or model, and send me evidence of having acquired this method from what I say, and the demonstration that I make, because of all the methods that I have ever discovered, this is one I could not do without, of getting a perfect occlusion.

Now, I am mixing plaster. You see you want to take plaster and use it just in that way, like putty. You want to be perfectly cool about plaster. You can take the plaster and flap it around in that way, if you don't get nervous. It knows me. Now I am going to take it and put it right in there. This is the first time I have ever made a set of teeth for this patient. "Madam, I wish you would just close your mouth for a moment, and keep it closed." Now, she has closed her mouth right in here, we will suppose.

There, gentlemen, she has opened her mouth, and I have got the imprint of the teeth. I want you to understand that. And I want you to see the next step I take, because I might as well take it off, and possibly trim it here, otherwise you will think the thing is all wrong anyway.

I have trimmed that and put it back and it does not rock.

If there is anything in this world that is ugly, it is to put in a large piece of bridge-work and perhaps have the porcelain cracked, and when you get it ready to put on, crowd it on, and have some of them snap. I have been all through it.

The next thing to do is to get a flat bottom impression cup. After burnishing this, I take the cup, and make an impression from that. I take a flat bottom cup and take an impression in plaster over that segment; remove it; if the segment does not come out with it, I take it out. I put each cap in its place in the impression. The impression now is bottom side up. I am looking down into it. These anterior teeth are represented. I put a pin in the cuspid, and if there were other teeth here I should put in two or three pins, and cut them off about half way. I then melt some fusible metal. We will suppose that this is plaster. Now we are looking down into this plaster impression, and these anterior teeth here. There is an imprint of these teeth, the whole length of them. I put a pin in here, cut that pin off, form a dowl here, and take fusible metal and pour in there. Now, the balance of it is filled with plaster of paris and sand, making the investment model. Fill your gold caps, which would be represented like that looking down—fill them and you might put a tack or pin in there so that they would not break off in the plaster or investment model. Now you see when you take off the impression cap first, and when you begin to cut away the plaster, you come down to the fusible metal tooth, representing this tooth exactly. You cannot mark them or deface them, any more than you can deface this, and I do that for the same reason. Now, you have a model representing this segment in place just exactly as there was in the mouth representing this tooth in fusible metal. You take one side of the mouth, the articulating side, made an impression in plaster of just the ends of the teeth, pour in fusible metal, and you have got your fusible metal occluding model for the upper, and you have this for the lower; put the two together, because this imprint will tell you exactly where these teeth belong, and you cannot miss it. There is no rule. If you have taken the steps rightly, it represents the teeth exactly.

Q.—Is that pure plaster?

Dr. Melotte—Marble dust and plaster. I said plaster and sand

Here comes in the posing pad. I do not like this. I would rather have a piece of rubber, but the rubber was worn out. I thought I would make this do. It does not serve the purpose as well as I expected, but still I should make the use of anything.

I do not know, gentlemen, but you would a great deal rather have had me explain all this by paper, but, you know, I do not like papers. Wesley stood one time in the church, and looked

very troubled; one of the sisters said to him, "Why, Brother Wesley, what is the matter?" Said he, "I have left my sermon at home." Says she, "Cannot you trust the Lord for once?" He said, "I will try it," and he preached the best sermon he ever preached.

Gentlemen, I would rather give it to you as it comes welling up crudely, because, you see, I am giving a clinic at the same time.

We will open this. It is the first time I have ever made a cast of that model, but we can make a very nice bridge, and I think it will be a permanent bridge, too.

Well, if there are any questions to be asked about this I wish you would not be bashful: it will only show me you are interested in it, and that you think it is of some particular use.

This method of taking the bite, and this manner of forming the cown are fundamental principles that govern me in bridge work.

Q.—How do you get that plaster segment out, if the teeth are leaning?

Dr. Melotte—That is a good point. That has bothered me, and I have had to take a number before now. That is a prttey good thing to do, if you don't get it out. I am going to make this just as bad as I can. Now wouldn't it be well to dry that, and put on a little alcohol, make it perfectly dry, and take some wax, and crowd right down in there, and make a core there, a Dutchman; fill in there and make it so that it would draw, and put in your plaster and it is all right anyway. That is the way to get over that difficulty.

Q.—Were you going to show us anything about swedging the cusps? You made a band?

Dr. Melotte—I swedged this. With one blow of this wood I made a counter-die and marked it; marked the cap and then marked this. Marked out this and then put the cap on there, and if you want the double thickness put it on. You will get a double thickness, probably, at the point where the occlusion comes.

Q.—Are there any individual cusps on your dummy?

Dr. Melotte—My assistant, while working for a gentleman.

Dr. Melotte—Well, here is a dummy. A funny thing oc—who had been a school-teacher, a man somewhat advanced in age, turned to me and said, "What shall I do about this dummy?" The man looked at him and could not think what was up; but the dummy he was thinking of was not the dummy we are talking about.

If you want to know how to make a dummy I will have to tell you. Here is a tooth: that was carved from an English tooth. I shall take a piece of green gold about No. 30, and the green gold is formed by melting one-third—I shall not blame you if you put it down on your note-book—one-third pure silver, and two-thirds pure gold; add a little borax and melt it.

Now I shall tell you how to melt gold. If I get a bottle of nitrous-oxide gas I shall melt about two or three pennyweights of platinum, and if I have a pair of rollers here I shall roll it out for you. I shall endeavor to make some pure gold and platinum rolled together, welding the platinum and gold by simply rolling it, putting it through the gold rollers.

Now, this green gold is made as I told you, and the lining is put on here, and it extends over the edge of the porcelain, and with the burnisher burnish it down here like that. Let it come well down here, and then burnish around the pins. You will take the pins in a pair of individual forceps and flatten the pins; bend one this way and one that way to hold it in place, but burnish this soft gold. It is as soft as pure gold. It will not tarnish under the blow pipe. I got this idea of making green gold. I suppose it was equal parts of coin gold and pure gold, but I found it did not make the green gold. I could not get along without this, and I line all my teeth with it because you can retain the color of the teeth better than with pure gold, and it is quite a saving. It makes equal to about 18 karat gold.

Q.—At what temperature does that gold melt?

Dr. Melotte—I could not tell you, but I know it has to melt when I blow. It melts very easily with a mouth blow-pipe, or with any blow-pipe. To-morrow I will show you with the mouth how I melt gold.

Q.—What strength of solder?

Dr. Melotte—You can use 20 karat solder.

Q.—On the green gold?

Dr. Melotte—Yes.

To form the remainder of this dummy you swedge out a shell of gold with a suitable die; you could put some wax on there and carve it very nicely. I should not take that trouble, but I should pick out one of the dies I have in my set, and swedge up a piece and blow it full of solder, and then take a file and bevel it down and place it on there, about as that is placed, letting it extend over a little, and invest it after heating fairly; always heating until it is perfectly brown. Then fill in solder as you were told to do by Knapp and some others.

Now, of course, you have your articulating model, and you have adjusted it. If you have made the articulation right you will find that this crown will be represented even to the 60th part of an inch. You can build up and get perfect occlusion if you follow this particularly.

If there is anything further I shall be pleased to answer your questions. If not, I will go on to the matter of constructing a gold plate.

Q.—What is your method of welding the top of the band?

Dr. Melotte—With solder about 18 karat.

Q.—You use porcelain faces. Which way do you bevel the top of them?

Dr. Melotte—Inwards. You must be careful and not let them solder; and, the worst thing in the world to crack porcelain is that sifting on of borax. It seems to me I do not use a 50th part as much borax as I have seen other men use. They appear to have a salt cellar and sift it on. I never use borax in that way. I rub onto one of these. You will find one of these wheels very nice for borax. All the working jewellers just get one of these carbon running wheels and make a creamy condition of borax right in this way. I think that will do very well. When I was packing up I put one of these in, and thought it would be a very good thing for grinding borax. A very coarse stone, such as a flat surface, tapering at the end, for sharpening scythes; I use one of these at home; it is rather narrow, but I like the coarse grain. A finer stone takes longer to grind, and a stone absorbs moisture; of course you can put on blotting paper, or make a little box and put the blotting paper in the bottom of it. This will keep the stone wet longer. I always use it the same as the working jeweller, a creamy borax, never using dry borax.

Q.—I understood you united the top of the band without solder?

Dr. Melotte—I told you I united this band without solder, but I can put a cap on that which will hold 20 karat gold, and with a blow-pipe I think I can weld it. I can put a square piece on there and make the edges creep right up and contour to the blow-pipe and weld it. I might burn it through. I have done that; but that is dexterous use of the mouth blow-pipe. I am glad to find that the use of the mouth blow-pipe is established here, instead of the bellows. No student of mine can ever use a bellows and do crown work.

I see the compliment has been paid me, that in Canada here you have copied my blow-pipe and improved it a little. Here is one of mine, and here is the other; they look very much alike. Of course there was no patent obtained in Canada, and you had a perfect right to copy a blow-pipe, as perhaps some other things are worthy of copying that you find in the United States. A good deal is not worth copying anyway.

Q.—Would the driven crown serve the purpose as well as a made crown?

Dr. Melotte—I never put on one of these ready-made crowns in my life.

Q.—With two or more dummies how do you strengthen the bridge?

Dr. Melotte—Two dummies coming together, I fill in sufficient here to make it one continuous bridge; putting small pieces always in the place where we put the cup in this soldering pad; a

small piece can be put in there; if not, it is better always in soldering the bridge, where we use a soldering pad, to put on the rim that is made to confine the heat, keeping it from rolling off; but, to secure the bridge on the pad, use iron pins. A gentleman came to me one time and got my receipt for making solder. I will not tell you his name, but he went home to a distant city and wrote me and said I cannot make the pins work. I use good brass pins. I wrote back to him and told him to use good honest New York pins, and not those old Pennsylvania pins that were made of iron; then I thought he would succeed in making his solder work. The next I heard from him he said the pins were all right. He had found some good honest pins. But, if you take those iron pins, instead of trying to make solder of them, and using them on the pad for pinning your work on, you will find they are very nice, because you can drop this bottom side up after you have pinned it on and it will be all right.

Gentlemen, I make bands by eye measurement. I commenced doing it when Dr. Templeton was with me, just for the fun of it, and I kept it up. Sometimes when a man is in your office and you feel you are in full possession of yourself, you want to surprise him, and this is one of the surprises I gave him. If you make a mistake, try it again. There is a great deal in crown-and-bridge work. Emerson says that what the soul says is true, and if you will only believe in yourselves, gentlemen, each one of you have more in yourselves to cultivate and believe in than anybody outside of yourself. Believe in yourself first, and it will give you the cheek to stand up for an hour and a half before a Canadian society and talk just as I have.

STUDENTS' ANNUAL AT HOME.

The students of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons held their second annual "At-Home" on Friday evening, December 10th, and the committee are to be congratulated on its success. The rooms were tastefully decorated with bunting in which was interwoven the colors of the college, garnet and blue. The evening's engagement was commenced by a concert in the large lecture room, which was highly appreciated by those who did not care to take part in the merry dance. The duet rendered by the Misses Ronan scored more successes for those young ladies. Then dancing took place in the large infirmary, from a corner of which Glionna's Orchestra supplied the sweetest of music. Light refreshments were served during the evening and at twelve o'clock supper was served in the large rooms at the top of the building. After this agreeable intermission dancing was resumed and kept up till the small hours of the morning.

The committee was as follows: G. A. Macoun, chairman; W. H. Bowles, J. S. Island, B. J. Currie, A. E. Hunt, G. A. Beattie, E. H. Henderson, K. C. Campbell and Dr. W. E. Wilmott, representatives from the faculty.

THE Dental College of the Province of Quebec gave a very pleasant "At Home" last month, at which the Dean, Dr. S. Globensky and Mrs. Globensky, Dr. R. L. Watson and Mrs. Watson, Dr. J. Gardner and Mrs. Gardner did the honors.

THE Ontario Dental Society meets in March to celebrate the 30th year of the establishment of the College. Dr. Black will likely be present to talk on amalgams. The Toronto Dental Society is arranging for a dinner for January 25th, at which there will be a feast of professional reason and a flow of social soul.

Translations

FROM THE FRENCH DENTAL JOURNALS.

By J. H. BOURDON, L.D.S., D.D.S., Montreal, Que.

ANCIENT PATHOLOGY: TEETH OF LOUIS XIV.—It is a well-known fact that the great king was born with two teeth; this anomaly was also observed with other illustrious personages, namely: Carius, Dentatus, Robert le Diable, Richard III. of England, Mazarin, Mirabeau, and of our days Dr. Broca. Known to that, Louis XIV. at the end of his life, wore an artificial denture made by his dentist (Dubois), who at that time was an expert in prosthetic dentistry. In a recent work published a few days ago by Dr. Cabanes, entitled "Le Cabinet Secret de l'Histoire," we find many details on Louis XIV.'s dental system. D'Aguin medical and historiographer of the health of Louis XIV., says that his royal patient had very bad teeth, that about the age of 38, in 1676, he commenced to suffer the most. During the campaign of Flanders the king strongly felt obstinate pains. These pains were relieved by applications of essence of cloves, or of thyme, "antiseptic treatment," says Herve. Two years later, in September, 1678, the king, while hunting, caught cold; result, an abscess was formed, poultices of bread and milk were applied; the abscess was opened with a lancet, pus issued giving immediate relief. In 1685 he married Madame de Maintenon. The king was affected with necrosis of the maxillary, including perforation of the antrum. All the teeth of the left maxillary were extracted, by which a large cavity was left. The result was that everything the

king would take would pass through his nose. This cavity was due to the extraction of the teeth taking away at the same time the bone; suppuration took place giving unpleasant odor. On advice of Dr. d'Aguin and Felix Tassy, first surgeon of the king, and Dentist Dubois attached to the service of his majesty, it was resolved to cauterize by fire. The royal patient consented to the treatment on January 10th; fourteen times the cautery was applied. Dentist Dubois, who held the instrument, fainted, seeming to suffer more than the king. The doctors prescribed the following gargle three times a day: spts. vini rect. 1 part, distilled water 8 parts, orange water 8 parts, so as to remove the eschar and bring granulation of the gum. Later on a complication set in by the fact of the closing of ouverture, pus coming out from the nose, due to the stagnation of liquids in the sinus. At this stage the malady kept for some time. It is allowable to say that this buccal affection and peculiar state of spirits of Louis XIV. led him to sign the fatal Revocation of the Edict of Nantes (1683). Besides, at that moment the royal household was far from being happy. One day the king said to Madame de Maintenon, "I am tired to bear your bad humor." "Sire," she replied promptly, "do I not bear your bad odor?" Eleven years later (1696) another abscess was formed, swelling of the cheek and maxillary glands. After many days and nights of pain the abscess broke, relieving his majesty. Unfortunately, the king, on the following Friday in going to church, caught cold, swelling tumefaction of the cheek reappeared, and lasted to the next Monday. The patient was relieved after having drawn three pans of blood.—G. VIAN, *L'Odontalgie*.

GOLD FILLINGS INSERTED WHILE CAVITY FILLED WITH SALIVA.—Mr. R. Heidé, Professor of the Ecole Dentaire of Paris, had the pleasure to submit, at a meeting of Odontological Society, February 2nd, 1897, teeth filled by Dr. Herbst with sub-marine gold. Sub-marine gold is a special gold 60 in thickness, therefore very thick, but nevertheless very soft and malleable; it is put in the form of pellets. With this kind of gold not only central cavities can be filled, but proximal cavities also, providing that the walls are very strong, not recommended for building loose part of tooth, such as corners, etc. Instruments used for the working of this gold are simple. First, a large polishing bur; second, same as first but unpolished; two pluggers for soft gold, this will constitute the whole. *Modus faciendi*—introduce large pellets of sub-marine gold with pluggers, then use bur No. 1, when in place fit in the gold, adding more gold till the cavity is filled. It is known for a long time the way of excluding humidity caused by saliva, by the use of the rubber-dam, but before these operators were subject to

many inconveniences on account of the saliva, rendering work very tedious, and in many cases the work would not be finished properly. Sub-marine gold does away with these annoyances. Dr. Herbst recommends to dip the pellet of gold to be used in water so as to make its introduction more easy, rendering the filling more dense. "I will make a personal remark," says Dr. Heide; "this way of filling resemble very much to the plugging of soft gold with pointed pluggers; but the finishing is done with burnishers applied on dental engine, then finished with corundum wheels. Dr. Herbst says that it is quite easy to add sub-marine gold to any fillings that are defective. The interesting point in this method, which is about the same as others in the way of filling with gold, is this: The peculiar quality of this gold, the limited number of instruments used for inserting a filling, is certainly a credit to Dr. Herbst, the eminent practitioner that every one has heard of.—M. R. HEIDE, *L'Odontalgie*.

GOOD ADVICE.—Very often a tooth, after being filled with gold or platinum, will be sensitive to hot or cold, even if a layer of cement has been put between filling and tooth, acting as a non-conductor. We know that this uneasiness will subdue in a short time. But the patient will sometime not understand this occurrence, and will every time that he presents himself to you, grumble, even to tell you that the work is not properly done, and wants you to do it over. To avoid all these inconveniences, I have managed to isolate in such a way the filling by covering it with a drop of collodion. By the evaporation of the ether the collodion forms a coating quite adherent, water-proof, will stand mastication for some time, and resist to saliva that would be acid. Its application is easily done by using a pointed piece of wood. The patient can apply himself once or twice a day and will have relief very shortly. I had a radical cure within eight to fifteen days, to the great satisfaction of the patient and operator. It's worth trying, for I had good success.—W. E. CHAPALAT, *Le Progrès Dentaire*.

FROM THE DENTIST OFFICE TO THE POLICE STATION.—A patient having a tooth extracted and then arrested by a police officer, is something of rare occurrence, such as happened to a brave habitant of Melbourne. He went to a dentist who injected a few drops of cocaine into the gums. The operation went on successfully, but hardly had he left the office of the practitioner when a nervous excitation seized upon the patient, and without any reason led him to the palace of the Governor, with the intention, as he shouted out, "To die in his arms." With great difficulty he was taken to the police headquarters and kept for a few hours until his mind was in a normal state, when he was dismissed after having given an explanation.

Correspondence.

DENTITION.

To the Editor of DOMINION DENTAL JOURNAL:

SIR,—In the November issue of the DOMINION DENTAL JOURNAL, page 389, is an article by "B.," entitled, "An Old Error About Dentition," which is so at variance with the leading writers and teachers on infantile pathology, that it should not be allowed to pass without a protest.

It has been quite *the* fad during the past few years, among a certain class of men—wholly within the dental ranks—to talk much of this "old error about dentition," and basing their assertions upon the high-sounding phrase that dentition being a physiological process, cannot, therefore, give rise to any morbid phenomenon, and likening it to *normal* menstruation and pregnancy; an equally fallacious argument, as it is not the *normal*, but the abnormal that is being considered.

Were it not that there is in this the semblance of credibility, and, therefore, misleading, it would not be worth while to notice it. But there is danger that men, without the time or the ability to investigate for themselves, will be led by this semblance of credibility to overlook or entirely disregard some of the greatest dangers threatening the infant life.

True, dentition is a purely physiological process, but, nevertheless, it is almost always accompanied with some degree of suffering, which not infrequently causes functional derangements and true pathological conditions. It is also true that with thousands of children, tooth after tooth appears without the slightest premonitory symptoms. The period of dentition comes and goes, attracting attention only when a new tooth is discovered. But as Tomes remarks: "Instances of teething such as these are comparatively rare, and can only occur in children who are and have been perfectly healthy, which involves a series of conditions our artificial state of living does not tend to bring about, even if it can allow."

Dr. J. Lewis Smith, in "Diseases of Infancy and Childhood," page 571, says: "An early recognition and appreciation of the fact, that difficult and painful evolution of the teeth frequently causes derangements in the functions of organs, even those remote from the mouth, and sometimes produces in them a real pathological state, will lead to a more intelligent treatment of grave and serious affections."

In support of the position of Tomes and Smith, we have the well-nigh unanimous testimony of the leading pathologists in infantile disease the world over, and while there are some who

believe dentition cannot be productive of any pathological disturbances, they are, as Dr. Berry remarks, of right in the minority.

"When it shall have been proven that other physiological processes, like puberty and the cessation of the menstrual flow, are never productive of serious morbid states, then we shall give evidence to this new doctrine; but for the present it is emphatically the opinion of the vast majority of authorities, that teething is the only assignable cause of some of the diseases occurring during the dentinal epoch."

A few years since I went into a somewhat careful study of this whole subject, the results of which were published in one issue of the *Dental Cosmos*, for 1893, page 1301, and while it would be too much to ask you to reprint that paper in full, as it is pretty long, yet I should be glad if you would call it to the attention of the readers of your JOURNAL, that those who are interested may examine the authorities there given.

Yours, very truly,

Buffalo, N.Y.

CHARLES S. BUTLER, D.D.S.

[It is a well-known fact, that editors are not responsible for the opinions of correspondents. In our November issue there appeared a stray bit of manuscript on "Teething," from one of our junior correspondents, which was published anonymously, because part of the article was lost in transmission, and our friend accepted responsibility of publication as it stood. We took the liberty of mailing Dr. Butler's letter to our correspondent, who has asked us to say, that his object was, not to deny that pathological results sometimes follow dentition, but to insist that the process which is purely physiological, is often held responsible for mistakes in diagnosis. He distinctly declared that "teething is frequently associated with pathological effects, that serious symptoms may be present;" but that all cases of infantile pathology, such as "inflammation of all the external and internal organs, the brain and its membranes, the air-passages, the lungs, etc., as also vomiting, diarrhoea, dysentery, etc., are not infallibly the result of teething." Our correspondent maintains that there is "no difference of opinion between him and Dr. Butler," unless it be that he cannot accept the statement that "teething is the only assignable cause of some of the diseases occurring during the dentinal epoch. Just such causes commonly occur long after dentition is completed."—ED. D. D. J.]

To The Editor of DOMINION DENTAL JOURNAL:

SIR,—Much thought is being exercised regarding "Quackery"; yes, much of it abounds. Some think that the term means advertising. Does it? Then the largest portion of our calling are more or less in it, and have been from the earliest.

Quackery involves the spirit of dishonesty; advertising does not, necessarily. Quacks tell the public that they can do things that cannot be done. They say too much. No dentist can "guarantee" his service to be every time successful. But most of those that came into practice from the thirties to the seventies did so. We commenced in '52, and our circular to the public "guaranteed." We followed the practice that was common around us—we started in New England. Our next neighbour was ahead of us: he "loaned temporary sets" for use until the mouth was ready for the "permanent set." It not uncommonly turned out that the borrower, for reasons best known to the parties, left the one that loaned the "temporary set" and chose another practitioner for the "permanent set." In these things they were only following the "customs of the country." In the early days customs were cruder and somewhat coarser; now, things are changed. Everything is on the line of the "aesthetic." We do not intend that any one shall see our motives but ourselves. The spirit of human nature is just the same in all these things as ever. Getting ahead of our fellows is going on all the same. If men are questioned *how* they do it, they tell you, "Oh! its easy, if you know how." It often calls for the putting of the hand into the pocket; that is easy if the one doing it has been fortunate. "If he can't get on the police force because he is too ignorant, then the order comes from headquarters—put him on the School Committee."

Only as men get away from their dire needs and their inborn ambitions do they drop the multiplicity of ways of emphasizing their superior qualities. As we view the public, on general principles they will clamor for the one that "guarantees" the most of the "impossible." Barnum was quite right—"The public *do* like to be humbugged." We are going to see more of it. The commercial age is tenaciously fastened upon us as a people.

It is the age of gold, and the nature of man's love for it will too often cause him to sacrifice *everything* for it, that he may only get it. There is also to be the opposite, and it is this quality of the *real* that holds the *unreal* against our radical distinction. We have no war to wage with our fellows over this matter. We are *sure* that as we are brought into the *real* this will be our safeguard from any of the pernicious influences of the *unreal*. We are more and more certain, as our hair whitens, goodness is the *best* quality of living for neutralizing the *evil*. "Good suggestions" may be offered and denunciations hurled, but an unselfish living will do much to stay the tide of the selfish life.

There is no way that evil can be overcome but with good. The natural man *cannot*, and *does not*, see the truth of this. Yet it is *true*. We are waiting in silent hush to know the truth of the possibility that the dental profession has, at last, a munificent

endowment from the princely fortune of the late Dr. Thomas W. Evans, of Paris. It is said that his estate is close upon \$35,000,000, and that the bulk of it has been left for the purpose of elevating the dental profession of America, and this means a general elevation. We hold our breath with gratitude that this good fortune has really come to us.

It will enlist all the wisdom we possess for the best distribution of so colossal a sum of money. It ought to bring out the best talent, and give it a worthy recompense for a life's bestowal of it for the advantage that it can be to those that may be won to a future educated profession; and, more, will we not be able to maintain our claim, that we are an independent profession, by being able rightly to stand side by side with any of the learned callings? May it not be the bringing of the "Tiptop blue blossom" that so often inspired the heart of our much-loved brother, the late Dr. Atkinson? How he longed for such a day to come, that we would have the funds to realize the lofty consummation of his dearest thought. We do not think many really appreciated how dearly he held the calling of dentistry. Our intimate acquaintance with him for a term of thirty years made it very real to us, and we shall enter into the—possible—realization in our day, for we yield the palm to no one for a stronger love for their calling than during our forty-four years of practice.

G. ALDEN MILLS.

New York, 33 East Sixty-second, November 28th, 1897.

"GIVE THE DEVIL HIS DUE."

To the Editor of DOMINION DENTAL JOURNAL:

SIR,—I think you would find it would make you more friends if you would drop your constant attacks on dentists who do not see if respectable merchants use sensational ways of attracting attention in the papers, why dentists may not do it too. For my part, I uphold your policy of exposing open quackery and the lies published in the advertisements of most of the sensational advertisers, but that is not the point. I ask you in all fairness, why is it more objectionable for a dentist to use a golden tooth over his door, than a physician to use a golden pestle and mortar? Why is it wrong for a dentist to use a show-case at his door, and right for a clergyman to use the sensational tricks that have become the fashionable means of attracting the people to the church? A man may be a pillar of his church, but he may act as a merchant in business or trade in a way he must not act were he a dentist. Look at our daily papers, filled with lies, and deceptive baits and bargains offered openly by our leading merchants. Run your eyes down the Saturday "Church Notices," and see the catchy sensational headings of the sermons, to be preached next Lord's Day.

Why is it wrong for the reporters and editors of the daily press to use startling and sensational headlines and catching titles, and right for the parson to do the same? The public, it may be said, are to blame. Well, I answer in the same way, "The public are to blame." Our dental associations of Canada do something to interest and educate dentists, but what do they do to interest and educate the public? Your journal is not seen by the public. I admit it would be a bad thing for the quacks if it were seen and read by the public. Well, now, what is the matter with the associations doing something in the local press just as regularly as the quacks do something? If one man can, why cannot a united force of an association? I advertise "sensationally," if you like to call it, and I mean to keep it up in spite of anything, until I see some action on the part of the societies which will reform the public. In the meantime I think my sensations just as justifiable as that of the merchant that trades—or the clergyman.

Yours, etc., A "SENSATIONAL" ADVERTISER.

WHY IS IT?

To the Editor of DOMINION DENTAL JOURNAL:

SIR,—In looking over a quarter of a century of practice how little general advancement can be tabulated? A few, very few in the profession have advanced original methods, and as small a percentage of practitioners have adopted them. This would seem to prove that dentists are principally imitators, and that the teachers in dental schools are not inventors. With the exception of crown-and-bridge work how much is there new in twenty-five years? We read in publications written in the sixties of the same results as are now demonstrated in treating abscessed teeth, orthodontia, filling teeth, and pyorrhea alveolaris. In all this time it is safe to say that not five per cent. of dentists handle these cases differently than then. The young men seem to know no more than in those days Why is it? G. L. CURTIS, M.D.

JUNIOR CRITICS.

To the Editor of DOMINION DENTAL JOURNAL:

SIR,—One of our graduates who was chiefly distinguished for his tact in keeping his mouth shut, and assuming a superior wisdom, got his L.D.S., by "the skin of his teeth." He has never put his foot into any of our meetings; has never contributed a line to any society or journal, and I predict he never will. But like some others of his kind, he makes a business of depreciating more ex-

perienced dentists, which, of course, he cannot do without praising himself, as the natural inference is that the critic is superior to the man he criticizes. I think if a young man feels it is necessary to his success to speak slightly of any respectable confrere, much less of those who have won success he has not, he is a pretty mean sort of a fellow.

Yours, ———

[So think we. But "curses like chickens come home to roost." Such mean conduct may have temporary success, but in the long run it does not pay. It hits back some time or other.—ED. D. D. J.]

Medical Department.

Edited by A. H. BEERS, M.D., C.M., D.D.S, L.D.S., Cookshire, Que.

PREVENTION OF PNEUMONIA FOLLOWING ANÆSTHESIA.—W. F. Whitney (*Boston Med. and Surg. Journ.*, September 23rd, 1897) refers to the frequency with which pneumonia follows ether anæsthesia. It is of the same type as the ordinary fibrinous form, and shows numerous micro-organisms, especially the pneumococcus. The infection, he thinks, takes place from the mouth to the lungs through the air passages. He therefore recommends a thorough aseptic cleansing of the mouth two or three times in the twelve hours preceding anæsthesia. The nose also is to be douched, and the anæsthetic cone sterilized.—*British Med. Journal*, Nov. 6th, 1897.

A CASE OF SEPTIC PNEUMONIA.—The following case of undoubted septic pneumonia seems worth recording: C. H. H., aged 71 years, had been suffering from spinal paralysis for three years, and was in very feeble health. On September 25th he had a rigor, his temperature was 103° F., and the respirations 60. The following morning the right lung was almost entirely consolidated; he was scarcely conscious, and was breathing stertorously. I removed a dental plate from the upper jaw, and a gangrenous condition of the mucous membrane of the hard palate revealed itself; the stench was horrible beyond description. There is no doubt that the poison he had been inhaling and swallowing was the cause of the pneumonia. His man-servant, who had been in his service for several weeks, said he was certain that the plate had never been removed during that time. Death took place in less than three days from the beginning of the attack, the temperature reaching 108° before the end.—ARTHUR TROWER, *British Med. Journal*, Nov. 6th, 1897.

Tit Bits from the Editors.

WHEN it is remembered that no two cases in practice are precisely alike in all their details, it will be seen how important it is to have the reasoning faculty well developed in order to always attain the best results. Unfortunately, it is not within the province of the teacher to deal with all the variations of all the special cases. The most that he can do is to teach the principles of his subject, and appeal to the intelligence of his students to apply those principles to individual cases. Happy is the teacher who has for students a class imbued with the necessity for reasoning out the relations of cause and effect in all they do. The student who early learns to think for himself will not only prove a source of satisfaction to his professors, but he will each day of his college course be paving the way for future proficiency in practice. Think and reason, reason and think.—DR. C. N. JOHNSON, in *The Bur*.

REFERRING to the great discovery of Professor Rontgen, and the applicability of the rays to gunshot injuries, and the impaction of foreign bodies, the editor remarks: "From the considerable difficulty experienced in adjusting the apparatus to the mouth the results, so far as the teeth are concerned, have perhaps not been quite as perfect as they were expected to be, still a good deal has been done. . . . This suggests the value of the method of examination in those cases in which the unerupted bicusped is removed to allow the incisors to fall back—an operation sometimes attended with considerable difficulty when the bicusped is abnormally placed to the second temporary molar. The production of a photograph, such as shown by Mr. Harrison (at the meeting of the Midland Counties Board of the B. D. A.), would be a valuable preliminary to the operation. Owing to the difference between the density of the tooth issues and the open bony tissue of the alveolar portion of the jaws, the teeth stand out in Rontgen photographs quite clearly from the surrounding bone, but usually—especially in the upper jaw—show a considerable amount of distortion. As far as methods are concerned, we believe the best results have been obtained by using a sensitive film in the mouth rather than a glass plate, the film, of course, incased in some light, tight material impervious to moisture, being capable of firm adaptation to the mucous membrane of the mouth. We cannot but think that there is still a future for this method of diagnosis in dental surgery, and with the more perfect knowledge of the nature of these mysterious rays, which time will assuredly bring, many of the difficulties attending the production of the radiograph will be removed."—*Journal of British Dental Association*.

Dominion Dental Journal

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AUDIRE ALTERAM PARTEM.

From time to time, we have published letters from quacks and quack-imitators, whose resentment was provoked by exposure of their humbug and immorality. Some of them were amusing in the audacity of their abuse; some, rank in their ignorance; a few, frank and fair in their argument. We publish in this issue, under our correspondence, "A 'Sensational' Advertiser," the best contribution to the latter we have received. While it starts with specious premises, which tumbles it head and ears into false conclusions, it contains elements of truth which we find it hard to deny.

As our correspondent insists upon the professional man enjoying the same right to sensational advertising as the departmental store, we are at once at loggerheads. That question has been threshed out in the journals in all countries for the last fifty years, and it would be useless to revive fully the *pros* and *cons*. The public may be deceived by the merchant's exaggerated offers in print; but the public are better judges of the value of the goods they can examine for themselves, than they can possibly be of any service of the physician or dentist. It is only in such a Province as Quebec, where thirty-five per cent. of the population cannot read or write, that the golden pestle and mortar, the golden tooth and the show-case, seem necessary. A large proportion of the French people

only discover a dentist as they find out a shoemaker. They look for the tooth on exhibition, as they expect the boot over the door, or in the window. We believe that Quebec has a monopoly in the Dominion of this distinction.

Our correspondent uses an argument with which we are in full sympathy. Sensationalism in the pulpit is the bane of the Church. There are stagy parsons who are no better than our quack-imitator dentists. The latter thinks the public need startling and sensational advertisements to compel attention to their teeth; the former think they need them to compel attention to their souls. The pulpit is quite as full of charlatans as any other profession; men who speculate in the cure of souls as flippantly as our quacks traffic in their treatment of the teeth. They dishonor the cause for which they are ordained; their services are as dust and ashes—a religious kindergartenism which ministers to the senses, and leaves the spiritual unfed. But, happily, these pyrotechnical parsons do not constitute the backbone of the Church. As a rule, their influence is confined to their own ecclesiastical kindergarten, and the sensational use, like our own quacks, they hungrily make of the press. Because there was one Judas, we do not accuse Paul, or John, or Matthew of perfidy. The Church is not made, though it may be somewhat marred by its apostates, and so in our professions. The black sheep do not constitute the flock; the sheep remain sheep though a goat get among them.

From what we know personally of our correspondent, we believe that the inaction of our Associations in the matter of influencing the public, led him, as a measure of self-defence, to abandon his former ethical methods. The question seemed to be for him—“Would he watch his practice passing to his advertising neighbor, and not imitate his methods? The public run to meet humbug; they hug it, even when it is unsavory. They are caught by pretence and sham and noise. Why should he not give them what they seek?” We have repeatedly suggested, and repeatedly published suggestions, means of placing before the public reliable and impersonal information on dental matters. It would pay as a profession, to have a fund in our Associations specially for the purpose.

“GOING ON TEN.”

This issue of the DOMINION DENTAL JOURNAL is the beginning of its own “wooden wedding.” It has entered its tenth year, having succeeded the *Canadian Journal of Dental Science*, which began thirty years ago. The publisher issued Vol. I. in 1889 as a quarterly, at \$1.00 a year, which it remained for two years, when it was increased to a bi-monthly, and with Volume V. it became a monthly.

at the same subscription. Our readers can see that the publisher has kept his promise to the profession, Both subscribers and advertisers get the benefit of the more frequent appearance. The JOURNAL is untrammelled in every respect. It favors none, and fears none. It hates quackery and quack-imitation, and will gleefully continue the work of their annihilation. In this it is only the echo of the wishes of all honest and upright dentists.

THE CARE OF VULCANIZERS.

In spite of the fact that the vulcanizers sold by reliable manufacturers are submitted to severe tests by hydrostatic pressure—some of them to a pressure of nine hundred pounds to the inch—explosions have not been unfrequent, generally due to the ignorance of the assistants who watch them, or pretend to watch them, during the process of vulcanization, and not a little to the carelessness of the dentists themselves, who fail to impress upon the students that these little steam boilers require as much attention as boilers of a greater capacity. In the first place, it does not pay to use cheap vulcanizers any more than cheap German tools and instruments, or the cheaper grades of artificial teeth. In the next place, one should familiarize himself with every part of the machine: realize the importance of keeping it and its belongings clean, and adhere strictly to the rules laid down by the manufacturers. Where thermometers are used it ought not to be forgotten that too rapid and too great heat at starting, especially if the flame is allowed to surround and reach the top cover, may deceive, and that the thermometer at 320° may really indicate only the temperature of the cover, and not that of the flask inside. The safety disk used on some modern vulcanizers should not be forced on too tight, as this weakens them. The boiler should on no account ever be perfectly full of water: at least, one inch or more of steam room should be left above the water. When the heat is first applied, the valve for the escape of steam should be opened for a few minutes to allow a free escape of steam, as this leaves in the boiler, after the valve is closed, an atmosphere of pure steam, and precaution should be taken not to use any more force in closing the valve than is necessary to make it steam-tight. We are warned, too, not to daub too much blacklead or soapstone powder about the packing. In fact, it is better never to use any if it can be avoided. Oil should never be used, as it rots the rubber packing, and may become gummy and cement the core to the pot, to the damage of the rubber packing. Too frequent use of the blacklead and soapstone wears away the screw thread. In heating up, the flame should not be larger than will

cover the bottom of the boiler. If students can have these simple instructions put into their brains, it may save some of them from having their heads blown off. If they will not attend to them they deserve to be killed. Thermometers, in the cities, ought to be relegated to the list of things which are obsolete in the laboratory. Proper gas regulators and steam gauges should be used, and dentists owe it to themselves and their students not to neglect every proper precaution in the use of these laboratory demons.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE practical notes in our November issue should have been credited to Dr. J. Austin Dunn, of Chicago, the inventor of that well-known simple and aseptic syringe which bears his name.

DR. CATCHING'S gold mine will soon be on the market. You will get several hundreds of shares for \$2.50. We can guarantee our readers in Canada that each share is worth the money asked for the lot. We have quadrupled our money on most of the shares many times. Address, Dr. B. H. Catching, Atlanta, Ga. He calls it "Catching's Annual Compendium of Practical Dentistry." We call it a dentist's gold mine.

"THE Lofoten Islands and their Principal Product" is the title of one of the handsomest brochures we have seen for some time. It describes the country in which the cod fish is caught and the method of extracting the oil. The beautiful engravings of scenery, with fish scenes, characteristic of the section, abound in the text. Anyone sufficiently interested in natural history or the source of one of our chief medicinal products, cannot do better than write Parke, Davis & Co., Detroit, for a copy of this elegant brochure.

MR. CLARK, of the A. C. Clark & Co., Chicago, manufacturers of the well-known Clark fountain spittoon with revolving inner bowl, was in the city lately and created quite a flurry in the dental trade. He claimed that the following firms were infringing his patents viz : H. P. Temple, H. W. Parker & Co., Clark Dental Manufacturing Co. These firms all made a settlement with Mr. Clark, however, and will protect their customers. The A. C. Clark Co. are making arrangements to manufacture in Canada so that the profession will still be able to secure this valuable and necessary adjunct to the dentist's office equipment.