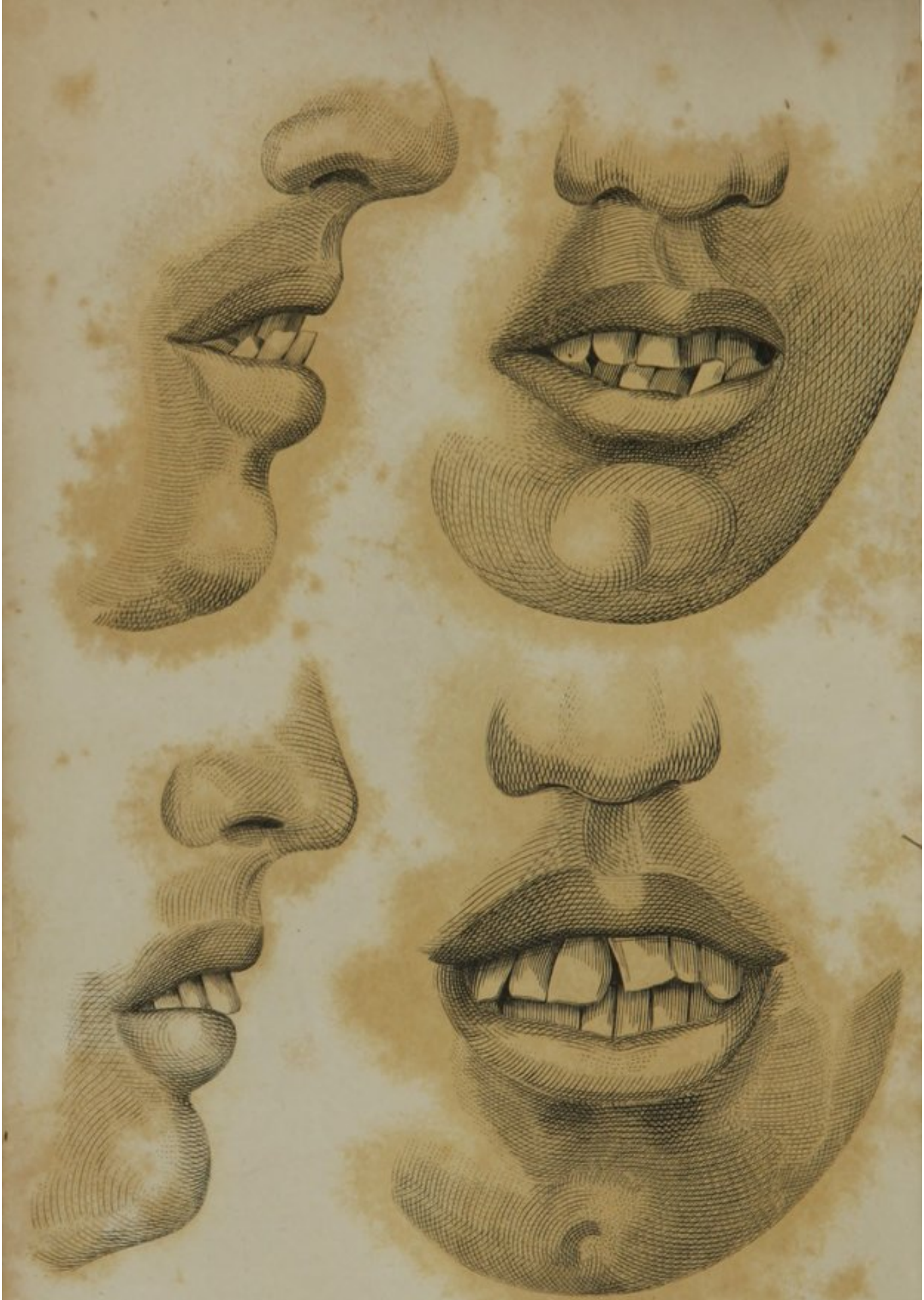
Fitch (S.S)

Remarks on the importance of the teeth + + + +



Irregularities of the Teeth, which may be obviated and reduced to symmetry, by the judicious Dentist.—

[illegible] of the Teeth [illegible]

[illegible] to the [illegible] Dental [illegible]

REMARKS

ON THE

IMPORTANCE OF THE TEETH.

ON

THEIR DISEASES AND MODES OF CURE;

WITH

DIRECTIONS FOR FORMING

REGULAR AND BEAUTIFUL SETS OF TEETH,

AND FOR THE

PRESERVATION OF THEIR HEALTH AND BEAUTY.

By SAMUEL S. FITCH, Dentist.

"Prevention is better than cure."—*Lord Francis Bacon.*

PHILADELPHIA:
JESPER HARDING, PRINTER.

1828.

HAVING written an extensive work upon Dental Surgery, embracing all parts of the science and art, I now without preface present to my friends in familiar language, devoid of technicalities, this small tract upon the teeth, their importance, &c. Every part of the subject alluded to here may be seen fully detailed in my System of Dental Surgery, which is now publishing in New York.

THE AUTHOR,
193 Walnut Street, Philadelphia.

Sept. 22, 1828.

REMARKS

ON THE

Importance of the Teeth.

THE teeth are those white and finely polished organs placed in sockets situated on the upper and lower jaws. They differ from all the other organs of our systems in that they are duplicate, consisting of two distinct sets, appearing at different periods and intervals of time. The first set are the infant or deciduous teeth; these appear between the 6th and 24th months of the infant existence: the second set occupies nearly twenty years of the limited period of our lives for their complete formation. The first set consists of 20, and the second, or permanent, of 32 teeth. At about the sixth year, if the child has lost none of its teeth, there are then upon its jaws 48; 20 infant and 28 adult, the last not having appeared through the gums. The appearance of the first permanent tooth marks the opening dawn of reason, and the cutting

of the last, its complete maturity; and hence the ancients termed the posterior jaw teeth, which appear latest, and at about the age of 20 years, the dentes sapientiæ, or wisdom teeth. The teeth consist of a substance like common bone, which forms their fangs and the internal part of their crowns and bodies. These last are covered by another substance, called the cortex striatus, or enamel. It is highly polished and beautifully white, rivalling in elegance of appearance the finest pearl or the best oriental ivory. It is the natural protection of the teeth, defending them from external injuries, and enabling them to perform their functions. The teeth compose the hardest animal substance known. For this reason they remain perfect and unaltered in the tomb, long after every other part of the body has mouldered to dust; and hence Tertullian considered that in them was concealed the seeds of a future resurrection: and from this idea Cadmus in the fable is represented as sowing the teeth of the dragon, from whence sprang the race of men. The teeth are living, and possessed of sensibility: they have a cavity in their internal part, on the surface of which ramify the nerve and blood vessels which confer vitality upon them. The nerves are derived from the fifth pair, by which the teeth have a nervous communication with the stomach, lungs, the tongue, ears, and eyes; so that by a diseased state of the teeth, the organs of digestion, respiration, tasting, hearing, and vision may all or any of them be affected.

The uses of the teeth are, first, to masticate our food; secondly, to modulate the voice; and thirdly, to give expression and beauty to the countenance.

Nature has provided us with teeth for the mastication of our food; and when they are lost our reason and sagacity teach us how to prepare our sustenance, so as to sustain in some degree our usual strength and vigour. But to animals she has denied this superior sagacity and reason; consequently, when they lose their teeth they soon die. The loss of the teeth in man, by preventing a proper mastication of our food, always induces feebleness, debility, and premature old age.

In the enunciation of language the teeth are indispensable. If they are not perfect, language cannot be clearly and distinctly articulated. The teeth modulate the sound of the voice much as do the strings of a musical instrument their appropriate tones. A knowledge of this fact induced St. Jerome in his old age to have his teeth filed, in order that he might with more clearness and facility speak the Hebrew tongue. On this account the orators and public speakers of antiquity were exceedingly anxious to preserve their teeth, and when they were lost, procured artificial ones, made of bone or ivory. There are some words which cannot be articulated if the front teeth are wanting, and when all the teeth are lost, the voice becomes feeble, thick, and indistinct; in the attempt to speak, the air is divided, in part driven through the nose, and instead of that noble,

commanding and pleasing articulation, which by its firmness and strength commands and rivets our attention, or by its sweet, harmonious and ever varying tones ravishing the senses and filling the soul with delight, we hear the imbecile, impotent and monotonous cadence of age, at once reminding us of imperfection and infirmity.

In giving beauty and expression to the countenance, it may truly be said that no one organ or set of organs have a greater effect. To those most concerned, lovely and accomplished woman, this subject becomes one of the first consideration. Man owes his influence to mental powers and physical energies, woman to moral worth and personal charms. The former commands in the senate and awes in the field: the latter governs in the softer circles of society, giving taste and form to social intercourse, herself the centre and the circumference of beauty and the graces: any thing which shall heighten or perfect these becomes of the first consequence to refined and polished society.

> "In smiles on beauty's lip the graces play,
> Awake young love, and steal the soul away."

But if the teeth are wanting, defective, or in an unpleasant state, the effect of "beauty's smile" is lost, and in place of ardent and fascinating delight, pity, disgust and disappointment occupy the mind. Let not the conquests of beauty be denied until Cleopatra is forgotten, nor the effect of a pleasing address until we cease to remember her who was first a peasant girl, then the czarina of Peter, and subsequently,

the empress of all the Russias. Such an influence do regular and handsome teeth exert in giving a pleasing and winning expression to the countenance, that from remote antiquity they have been an object of attention, not only among civilized and polished people, but also with barbarians, and the rudest races of men; although among the latter the ideas of beauty may be different, yet the attention paid to the teeth clearly demonstrate that even savages consider and know that they may have striking effects upon the expression of their countenances. The ancient Celtiberians highly valued the teeth, and took great care to keep them perfectly white and clean. The natives of Peru and New Holland esteem highly the privation of a front tooth. The Indian of Java supplies the deficiency with a tooth of gold. The Japanese dye their teeth, and pass several days without eating, in order to allow the colour to fix. Many of the inhabitants of Abyssinia file their incisor or front teeth, so as to make them spear pointed, esteeming this shape better than the natural. Many whimsical customs of this kind might be mentioned, showing that even rude nations have imputed great consequence to the teeth.

Among the ancient polished nations an attention to the cleanliness and beauty of the teeth was considered so highly important as in some instances to be enjoined as a religious duty. The Bramins, who are the descendants of the ancient Sanscrits, one of the oldest polished nations, make the cleaning of their teeth a matter of religious observance; and as the custom is

enjoined in their first books of law and divinity, it is presumed to be coeval with the brightest periods in the history of that ancient people. The ancient Chaldeans and Egyptians attended particularly to the state of the teeth. The Hebrews considered the teeth as of great consequence, and punished their loss by the strict law of retaliation; "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth." Solomon, one of the wisest and gayest sovereigns of all antiquity, whose court was the home of fashion and beauty, in complimenting an illustrious lady, and in admiration of the charms conferred by beautiful teeth, said, "your teeth are like a flock of sheep even shorn, which come up from the washing:" at once conveying an idea of clean, even, and beautiful teeth, by a figure as chaste and appropriate as the customs of that pastoral people could afford.

In more modern times the same taste prevailed, and the testimony of the Greek and Latin poets all conspire to prove how much those refined people esteemed a pure and cleanly mouth, and beautiful and perfect teeth. The Roman people extended their conquests from Abyssinia to the Isles of Britain, and from the Atlantic to the Indian Oceans: yet the fame of their accomplished ladies extended still farther; the princes of the east vied with each other in doing homage to those graces by which they were so pre-eminently adorned. In the attentions of the toilet their teeth claimed a large share of attention; they were never suffered to be dirty, but were kept per-

fectly pure and clean; and if wanting, their places were supplied by artificial ones. They well knew that if their teeth were wanting, defective, or in an unpleasant state, every effort to please would be vain: so well was this fact understood and appreciated, that Ovid, one of their poets, most acquainted with the common intercourse of familiar society, recommends as a remedy against love, "to make her smile who has bad teeth." Their delight was a mouth of roses and lips of vermilion. Ovid said to a young lady, "I can perceive your attention to the graces by the whiteness of your teeth." "How," said Catullus, in giving the portrait of Pantheus, "can I describe the beauty of her teeth, which she presented to view in the act of laughter, white, equal, closely and compactly placed; they presented in their arrangement the image of a fine necklace formed of pearls, the most regular and the most brilliant." "Teeth of snow, beautiful as the Parian marble," are common expressions. According to Catullus, when Julia presented herself to Manlius, "She shone by a flowery mouth." In yet later days, among the refined nations of Europe, the teeth have claimed the highest share of attention, and their beautiful women were remarkable for the beauty of their teeth, of whom I will mention Anne Boleyn, Mary, queen of Scots, and Maria Antoinette. The wife of George III. who was previously the princess Sophia Charlotte Caroline, of the noble house of Mecklenberg Strelitz, and of Saxe Helbourghausen, when her countenance was passive, had not the least

claim to beauty; but when moved to smiles and laughter, her beautiful teeth became a redeeming feature, that rendered her countenance attractive and pleasing. At this time, in the higher classes of the English and French, the teeth, in reference to the perfection of beauty, or as giving a pleasing expression to the countenance, are considered as deserving the highest consideration; and from many polite circles, bad and unpleasant teeth, especially in a young person, would alone be sufficient to exclude him. There is an effect of bad teeth, which I will mention in this place; it is the pernicious influence they exert upon the purity of the mouth and the sweetness of the breath. It would seem almost astonishing to those unacquainted with the subject, to notice the effect of even one bad tooth upon the respired air. How peculiarly repulsive becomes the embrace of friends when assailed by an unpleasant breath (puanta ore.)

The French, in some instances, in order to induce those most concerned to attend to the state of their teeth, have called to their aid the most caustic satire. Benserade said of a young lady whom he heard sing, and who had a very bad breath, "What a beautiful voice, and very charming words, but the *air* is worth nothing:" Mais l'air n'en vaut rien. I will close this subject with a quotation from the French Dictionary of the Medical Sciences, which my friend, Mr. Eleazar Parmly, of New York, has also very judiciously quoted in his well written work upon the teeth.

"The teeth are the most lovely ornament of the

human countenance; their regularity and their whiteness constitute that ornament: these qualities rivet our regards, and add new charms to the beauty of the countenance."

"If the mouth exceeds in size its ordinary proportions, fine teeth serve to disguise this natural error in its conformation; and often even the illusion, which results from the perfection of their arrangement, is such, that we imagine the mouth would not have looked so well if it had been smaller."

"Observe that lady smile, whose mouth discloses the perfection of their arrangement; you will never think of remarking the extent of the diameter of her mouth: all your attention will be fixed upon the beauty of her teeth, and upon the gracious smiles which so generously expose them."

"This ornament is equally attractive in both sexes; it distinguishes the elegant from the slovenly gentleman, and diffuses amiability over the countenance by softening the features. Those of the black African cease to frighten the timid beauty when he smilingly shows his teeth, sparkling with whiteness."

"But it is more particularly to woman that fine teeth are necessary, since it is her destiny first to gratify our eyes, before she touches our soul, and captivates and enslaves our heart."

"The influence which the teeth exercise over beauty, justifies the pre-eminence which I attribute to them over all the other attractions of the countenance. Let a woman have fine eyes, a pretty mouth,

a handsome nose, a well turned forehead, elegant hair, a charming complexion, but let her also have bad teeth, teeth blackened by caries, or covered with thick tartar, or a viscid concretion; in a word, let her exhale a contaminated breath, (which discovers her approach before herself appears,) we should cease to think her beautiful the moment she opens her mouth. She, herself, aware of the unhappy effects of her smile, constrains it into grimace, to conceal the ravages which disease has made on her teeth.

"On the contrary, if she has a large nose or small eyes, if she be even ugly, provided that her teeth are regularly planted, that they are white, and, above all, that she possesses the whole of them, or, at least, those which are visible, this woman's countenance, however frightful she be, will appear agreeable the moment that a smile comes to her aid, and she will hear whispered around her those words, so consoling to her vanity, "*What beautiful teeth she has.*"

"When nature, sparing of her gifts, has failed to bestow them on the teeth, making them defective in form and tarnished in colour, care and extreme cleanliness must be resorted to, to supply the imperfections and hide the faults. In this case, at least, if the teeth do not attract our regard, they do not affect us disagreeably."

Lord Chesterfield remarked, "that fine and clean teeth are among the first recommendations to be met with in the common intercourse of society."

And Lavater with great justice remarks, "that as

are a man's teeth as regards their cleanliness, &c. so is his taste."

The celebrated Dr. Samuel L. Mitchill, LL.D. of New York, justly esteemed one of the first philosophers in this country, said to me a few months since, "I have a few teeth, and I consider them the best *friends* I have." Philosophy itself could not have made a more just remark, to which I think every reflecting mind will accede.

DISEASES OF THE TEETH AND GUMS.

Decay of the Teeth.

The most usual disease of the teeth is caries, or decay. This usually commences on the sides of the front teeth, and on the grinding surfaces of the molar, or jaw teeth, (and, under some circumstances, upon every part of the tooth.) It is known by a dark spot on the affected tooth, which gradually enlarges, and penetrates towards its centre, until it arrives at the nerve, when it is very apt to produce tooth-ache, and in this way destroy the tooth; but if not, the entire tooth becomes affected and crumbles to pieces, leaving in many instances putrid and decayed fangs, which greatly injure the other teeth, inflame the gums, and render the breath exceedingly offensive, and in many instances produce very painful and fatal diseases. In this way whole sets of teeth are often destroyed by caries, in some instances in a few months,

in others as many years. Caries is most apt to occur in the teeth of young persons, in whom it proceeds with the greatest violence, and soon destroys them. Decay of the teeth is usually occasioned by neglect of cleanliness, and a filthy state of the mouth. After one tooth has become decayed it is very apt to produce disease in all the others. Caries is completely cured and prevented by the judicious dentist. The modes of cure consist in filing away the caries and stopping the cavity in the tooth, if there is any, with gold, by which the tooth will be perfectly cured, if the operation is perfectly and judiciously performed; if not, instead of being of service, it will be a great injury. If the cavity does not allow of stopping, filing away all the diseased part, and afterwards observing perfect cleanliness, the caries will be effectually cured, and prevented from farther progress. If the nerve of the tooth is exposed, the judicious dentist will know how to reduce its sensibility, so as, without pain, to allow of stopping, and thus save the tooth. A great many of which I have met with, and thus preserved, in my practice.

DISEASES OF THE GUMS.

Scurvy.

This is a disease which attacks the gums of persons of all ages. It begins by a slight swelling and redness of the gums, which become tender, and bleed on

the slightest impression, and often attended with a peculiarly gnawing and unpleasant sensation in them, and about the necks of the teeth. It is occasioned by the tartar of the teeth, which is deposited around their necks, pressing upon the sockets, which induces pain, inflammation, and very often suppuration; and unless cured, occasions the loss of all the teeth. It is from this disease that old people lose their teeth, otherwise perfectly sound. It is thought by some that this disease is incurable, but this is a great mistake. It is with pleasure the author of this little tract can mention having cured many inveterate cases, in several instances from 14 to 18 years' standing: it requires most delicate operations, and the aid of the judicious and intelligent dentist, in whose hands it will be ever manageable, and be speedily cured. As well as caries, or decay of the teeth, scurvy is extremely apt to affect the breath, and destroy its purity and sweetness. For this reason a person may have very fine teeth and very bad breath, from slight disease of the gums, which should lead them to notice the health of these, as well as that of the teeth.

DISEASES PRODUCED BY DISEASED TEETH.

Defective teeth often occasion most distressing and fatal diseases, of which I will merely mention Phthisis Pulmonalis, Consumption. Dyspepsia, Indigestion. Pain in the ear, and formation of matter in that organ. Inflammation and painful affections of the eyes, in

some cases producing almost total blindness. Nervous affections. Epilepsy. Hysteria. Hypochondriasis. Rheumatic affections. Tic Doloureux. Sympathetic head-ache. Palsy, &c.

I can only mention the names of these diseases in this place; those who wish to see the subject fully detailed can be gratified by a reference to my large work upon Dental Surgery.

An alarming case of consumption, produced by a diseased state of the mouth and teeth, came under my notice the last summer. The subject of it was a gentleman of a most amiable and estimable character. He was cut off in the prime and vigour of his days. His grief and sorrow can hardly be conceived when he learned that his disease was the consequence of bad teeth. The tears and sympathies of his friends could afford no relief, and the utmost exertion and skill of his physicians were of no avail. In the bitterness of grief he regretted having neglected a timely application to a judicious dentist, who, by curing his teeth, might have saved him from premature death. The other diseases I have mentioned as produced by bad teeth have so long been a subject of remark and record as not to be doubted by the intelligent physician, almost every form of which I have seen in my own practice and that of my friends. I might also mention gum biles, discharge of purulent matter through the cheek, and a cancerous state of the jaws and adjacent parts: of the latter the annals of medicine record many terrible cases.

IRREGULARITIES OF THE TEETH.

In the annexed plate will be seen some of the forms of irregularity which at times occur in the position of the teeth. A single glance at the plate will instantly inform the beholder how much bad teeth may impair the beauty of the countenance. These irregularities producing serious deformity, may be completely prevented from taking place by a timely attention to the shedding and growth of the teeth: after having taken place they may be completely reduced to symmetry by the ingenious and intelligent dentist. This is done in a short time, without violence, or causing pain or inconvenience to the patient. The drawings in the plate were taken from actual cases, which were subsequently reduced to symmetry and beauty by the dentist.

OF EXTRACTING, CLEANSING, FILING, AND STOPPING THE TEETH.

These are some of the operations for the cure and prevention of disease in the teeth performed by the dentist in the course of his professional duties. Were all those who attempt these operations, or call themselves dentists, intelligent in their profession, I need not make a remark upon these subjects: but unhappily many persons attempt these operations who are utterly destitute of science, and are often guilty of the most erroneous, barbarous, and unsurgical prac-

tices, at once pernicious, unnecessary, and derogatory to the profession, and exceedingly injurious, painful, and dangerous to the patient. As instances, I will mention extracting sound instead of diseased teeth; extracting teeth which are so little defective as otherwise to be perfectly preserved by stopping; extracting permanent instead of the infant teeth; breaking and shattering the jaw, &c. &c.; instances of which occur almost every day in the hands of ignorant dentists. Filing the teeth which are perfectly sound and regular; rude attempts to remedy irregularities of the teeth, of which an instance occurred in the state of Georgia, where a young lady absolutely died in the hands of the dentist: I could say much more, but I forbear. I will, however, remark, that as no person is safe in the hands of ignorant dentists, they ought, before they have their teeth operated on, to ascertain the character of the dentist, his attainments, skill, &c. and on no account, unless these are satisfactorily ascertained, to allow any operations to be performed on their teeth. Individuals wishing the aid of the dentist should remember that if a dentist in his operations does no good, he will most assuredly do a great deal of harm. In determining the choice of a dentist, pecuniary considerations should have no weight. The questions to be asked are, is he a good, judicious, and intelligent dentist? The generous dentist will ever, in some degree, consider the circumstances, &c. of his patients.

Many persons, from slight uneasiness and pain in

their teeth, have them extracted; when, by a better treatment, they might have been preserved. It has been the happiness of the author of this paper to preserve many teeth, so as to be perfectly useful for many years, that had been given up by the patient, and applied to me for their extraction. Simple tooth-ache should warn the patient to apply to a dentist for relief, but on no account to have the affected teeth extracted if they can in any way be preserved. The front teeth, if the roots are sound, should never be extracted, for if extracted, deformity of the mouth is induced. If the fangs of these teeth are allowed to remain, deformity of the jaw is prevented, the symmetry of the mouth is preserved, and artificial teeth can be readily inserted on them, so as to perfectly supply the deficiency of the lost tooth, or teeth. The teeth should never be filed, unless for artificial purposes, to remove decayed portions, or to remedy some irregularity. Regular and sound teeth should never be filed; stopping or plugging carious teeth should always be preferred, if practicable; pure gold is the substance which should be used; any other, except platina, instead of stopping the progress of caries, only hastens it: this operation, if properly performed, excites very little pain. The teeth are cleansed of foreign matter by the dentist, by which means they are rendered clean, white, and beautiful. The use of acids to whiten the teeth is extremely injurious, and should never be done, as by it the best sets of teeth are soon ruined. They may look very white at first, but they

soon become permanently black, and liable to decay. It is by a careful and delicate employment of instruments, and the use of proper dentifrices, that the judicious dentist, without pain to his patient, renders the teeth perfectly clean, and of a pearly white; after which they may be kept so by the patient for a long time.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH.

So much do the teeth add to the beauty of the countenance, and so indispensable are they to a clear enunciation of language, that it has been practised from remote antiquity to replace them when lost by artificial ones: and it is now generally practised among all civilized and polished nations. Artificial teeth should so much resemble the teeth which were lost and intended to be replaced, and be so well and completely adapted to the mouth, as to wholly and entirely elude detection. I have often replaced the teeth artificially so as not to be detected by the most rigid scrutiny. Artificial teeth may be made so as to perfectly imitate the teeth which were lost, and be so perfectly adapted and so firmly inserted in the mouth as to defy every attempt at detection from the most scrutinizing inspection.

The substances most proper for artificial teeth are those prepared from natural teeth, and mounted on gold. Ligatures of every description should be rejected, and, if possible, nothing admitted into the

mouth but the most perfect natural teeth, confined by pivots, or plates of pure gold; most other substances render the mouth unpleasant, and affect the sweetness of the breath.

Artificial teeth inserted in this manner, as far as the enunciation of language and beauty of appearance are concerned, will completely supply those which were lost.

We often insert whole sets of teeth, both upon the upper and lower jaws, when the person has none of his original teeth remaining. In this case they serve the purpose of mastication to a very considerable extent.

Directions respecting the growth of the teeth, so as to render them regular and beautiful, and likewise for preserving their health and beauty at all periods of life.

We have before remarked that about the age of six years, if the child had lost none of its teeth, it had upon its jaws 48 teeth, 20 infant and 28 adult, or permanent, the latter not having passed the gums: soon after this, the precise period varying in nearly all children, the deciduous teeth fall out and the permanent begin to appear, all of which are not usually obtained until the 18th or 20th year, and even later. During the shedding of the infant teeth, and the appearance of the permanent ones, the advice and attendance of the judicious dentist is required. The teeth should be often inspected; the infant teeth

should be removed when they become loose, or a fulness of the gums indicates the appearance of the new teeth. It is customary in England and France to have dentists, who regularly visit private families, and the schools and seminaries for the education of young persons, for the purpose of inspecting the mouths and teeth of the children, and to perform those operations which may be required for removing the infant teeth and rendering the permanent ones regular. The mouths of children sometimes suffer dreadfully from scurvy of the gums, of which many have died in this city.

In general, from the age of 6 to 15 years the teeth of children should be seen by the dentist, at least once in six months, and if he is ingenious and intelligent, he will rarely fail of rendering their teeth regular, healthy, and beautiful.

As early as the age of three years children should be taught to often cleanse their teeth with a moderately soft brush and water, and occasionally pure Windsor or Castile soap and water.

After the appearance of the adult teeth a brush may be used somewhat harder, and if it fails to keep the teeth white, a dentifrice may be used, consisting of charcoal, prepared chalk, Peruvian bark, Armenian bole, &c. &c. which ought, however, to be under the direction of the judicious dentist. By the attendance of the dentist early decay will be detected, and prevented, or cured. From the 10th or 11th year the mouth and teeth should be regularly washed every

day; perhaps the best time is in the morning, after rising from bed. During sickness and exhibition of medicines, the teeth should be cleansed three or four times a day, and always after the exhibition of medicines. If the constant use of the brush should fail of preventing the accumulation of tartar, this should be removed by the judicious dentist. Every appearance of caries should be examined by the dentist, and removed by the file; or if a sufficient cavity to allow of stopping, it should be done with soft pure gold. Thus, by the assiduous attentions of the intelligent dentist, aided by the utmost care and attention of the patient, the teeth may be preserved to the *latest years of life.* I will here advert to a common practice;—that of calling upon a dentist to have a little done to the teeth, whilst some are allowed to remain diseased. This is one of the worst practices. If anything is done to the teeth they should be all rendered healthy, and no vestige of disease in them or the gums allowed to remain.

Tooth-picks are extremely useful, and should often be used, made of gold, silver, or the common quill; they serve to remove all foreign matter from between the teeth, and assist to keep them and the gums in a healthy state.

Copy of a letter of introduction from Dr. Joseph Klapp to Dr. Physick, given to S. S. Fitch.

PHILADEPLPHIA, Jan. 24, 1828.

Suffer me to introduce to you the bearer, Dr. Fitch. I know him to be a gentleman of both *private* and *professional merit*. He is about to publish an extensive, and I trust a valuable work on dental surgery. The chief object of his visit to you at present will be explained by him, and whatever information you may find it convenient and agreeable to give him, will be esteemed an obligation conferred on your already greatly indebted friend and humble servant.

Signed

JOSEPH KLAPP.

Dr. PHYSICK.

Copy of a letter from Mr. Eleazar Parmly, Dentist, of New York, to Dr. Nathaniel Chapman, of this city.

No. 11, Park Place,

NEW YORK, Sept. 20, 1828.

To Dr. N. CHAPMAN.

Dear Sir—Having had several years ago the honour of an introduction to you by one of your most intimate

and valued friends, who at that time was residing in London, I now take the liberty of recommending to your friendly notice Dr. S. S. Fitch, Surgeon Dentist, of your city, whose enquiry after knowledge in the profession to which he has so devotedly applied himself, entitles him to the liberal applause of all scientific and learned men. I have just been looking over a manuscript work of his on dental surgery, and am so well pleased with his views, that I feel no hesitation in saying, that if he is governed in his practice by the principles he has developed in his work, he will be ranked among the very first in his profession; and that if his industry and talents are deservedly appreciated, he will be rewarded with distinguished fame and emolument.

With the highest esteem and respect,

I have the honour to be your

obliged and obedient servant,

ELEAZAR PARMLY.