

## Uit de oude doos.

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„Lorsqu'il se trouve des Dents assez tendres pour s'user par le frottement des seuls alimens, je ne crois pas qu'il y ait, pour les garantir de cet inconvénient, de moyen plus sûr que celui que j'ai imaginé, & qui m'a parfaitement réussi.

Il faut recouvrir la Dent usée d'une calotte d'or, qui incruste toute la surface extérieure, & qui soit ajustée de manière que elle ne puisse intercepter aucune portion d'alimens. La Dent opposée, & les alimens n'ayant plus alors d'action sur le corps de la Dent ainsi revêtu, elle est préservée quelque tendre qu'elle puisse être, du dommage dont nous parlons.

Cette pratique est très-avantageuse pour les grosses Dents, ou Molaires, attendu qu'elles causent beaucoup de douleur, quand la Dent commence à s'user près du nerf, & qu'il n'y a d'autre moyen pour l'arrêter, que celui de sacrifier la Dent. On est sûr de sa conservation, sans craindre qu'elle cause dans la suite aucun mal, lorsque l'on s'y prend de bonne heure & à tems, pour la faire recouvrir. L'inconvénient que l'on peut trouver à faire la même opération aux petites Molaires & aux incisives, est qu'étant placées au-devant de la bouche, elles sont toujours exposées à la vûe par les divers mouvemens que les lèvres font, soit en parlant, soit en riant. Les yeux, sans doute, seroient choqués d'une couleur aussi disparate, que celle de l'enve-

loppe que je propose pour les Molaires; mais lorsque la disposition des incisives ne s'oppose pas à cette ressource, l'on peut faire émailler l'extérieure de l'enveloppe de la même couleur que les Dents voisines. Au surplus, quand l'usage de ma méthode seroit toujours restraints aux grosses Dents, qui sont cachées au fond de la bouche, & qui sont celles qui s'usent le plus par le travail qu'elles sont obligées de faire, plus considérable que celui des incisives, l'utilité m'en parôit assez sensible, pour ne point la rejeter ni la négliger.

*Essay d'odontotechnie ou dissertation sur les Dents  
Artificielles par Mouton Chirurgien-Dentiste.*

Paris M. DCC. XLVI.

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„Un jeune homme d'environ trente ans, tourmenté par des douleurs de dents très-violentes, se présente chez moi pour se faire extraire la dent dans laquelle il prétendait qu'existait la cause de ses souffrances. Cette dent n'était altérée par aucun effet de la carie, et cependant je parvins à me convaincre, par la percussion, qu'elle pouvait bien être effectivement le siège de la douleur: j'en opérâi l'évulsion; n'ayant pu ensuite y reconnaître aucun point d'altération, je la cassai pour en examiner l'intérieur, et je trouvai la cavité dentaire remplie d'un Osselet<sup>1)</sup> assez considérable. Je reconnus alors que cet osselet, par son accroissement successif, irritant la pulpe nerveuse et la comprimant contre les parois de la cavité, avait déterminé une sorte d'inflammation, et qu'il était en conséquence la cause évidente des

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1) Mon père a souvent remarqué ces osselets dentaires, et particulièrement dans les canines et les incisives de l'hippopotame, ainsi que dans les défenses d'éléphants, de morses, de narwals et dans les dents des chachalots, etc.



douleurs auxquelles ce jeune homme était en proie depuis long-temps.

#### ANALYSE DES OSSELETS DES DENTS DE L'HOMME.

Cent parties de ces osselets, calcinés dans un petit creuset de platine, ont laissé un résidu blanc pesant 59,5.

La perte de poids occasionée par la matière animale qui a été brûlée est donc de 40,5. Les 59,5 de résidu, sur lesquels on a versé de l'acide nitrique affoibli, se sont dissous entièrement avec une légère effervescence. La dissolution a été précipitée par l'ammoniaque; le précipité blanc, gélatineux, lavé à plusieurs reprises à l'eau chaude, ensuite desséché et calciné, pesait 38. Il s'est comporté, à l'examen qu' on en a fait comme du phosphate de chaux.

La liquer d'où ce phosphate de chaux avait été précipité, mêlé avec une dissolution de sous-carbonate de soude, a fourni un précipité blanc qui, après avoir été lavé et séché, peait 21,5. Ce précipité, traité par l'acide sulfurique, a été totalement transformé en sulfate de chaux; d'où l'on peut conclure que c'était du carbonate de chaux.

Rousseau (L. F. Emmanuel) Dissertation sur la première et la seconde dentition, Paris 1820.

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### The Adult Teeth.

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The teeth may be viewed, in some degree, as extraneous bodies, not liable to those diseases which affect the rest of the system. This has not been duly considered by preceding writers, who have generally supposed these substances to be affected by all those circumstances which influence

the rest of the body, and which are here, on the contrary, from the nature of their composition, of no effect whatever. The diseases of the teeth are simple; and they are only changed by that chymical agency which is immediately applied to them, and which never fails, when exposed for any length of time to its influence, to produce an erosion of their enamel. The adult, on the discovery of a carious tooth, may date the mischief even as far back as the period of childhood, when the means of prevention should have been administered.

Numerous are the causes of diseased teeth and gums, stated by writers; but these causes may be considered, for the most part, as ideal. It has been asserted, that climate has a considerable influence in this respect; that the inhabitants of warm countries have sound teeth, while those in the colder regions have diseased teeth. But this is contradicted by plain fact; for we find persons both with sound and diseased teeth in every climate, which shews it is not to that cause the disease is to be attributed. The same may be said of the luxuries of the table, in respect to sauces, acids, sweetmeats, &c. For the teeth, the hardest substance of the animal machine, can never be acted upon by the transient passage of certain articles of food and beverage into the stomach. The same observation will apply to heat and cold, and to the temperature of substances taken into the mouth. This temporary influence can never, of itself, produce disease in the teeth.

To what then are the disorders of the teeth to be attributed? This is an interesting question; and one whose solution escaped even the penetration of those celebrated physiologists, Hunter and Fox. I esteem it, indeed, a most fortunate circumstance, that my attention was so early and closely engaged by an enquiry of such general importance:



and I can now assure my readers, that the result of my labors, founded on the successful prosecution of a series of the most numerous and satisfactory experiments, few have had even an opportunity of making is that *the relics of what we eat or drink- (without regard to its quality) being allowed to accumulate, stagnate, and putrify, either in the interstices of the teeth as is most commonly the case, or else in those indentures on their surface, favourable for the lodgement of food, is universally the cause of their decay, and generally of most other disorders, to which they are exposed.*

The great and leading cause, therefor, of the diseases of the teeth and gums, is to be sought for in the exercise of their functions. Being the agents of introducing the supplies to the system, they must act on these supplies mechanically, and fit them for passing into the stomach; and, in doing so, part of that matter, of which the supplies consist, must adhere, and receive, if allowed to remain, that change which enables it to act upon, and erode their enamel and bone; and to contribute to that peculiar secretion on the teeth, known by the name of tartar, which is another cause of inflammation and disease of the gums.

*This is the true source of caries, or decay of the teeth,* which the two late eminent writers before-mentioned, find so difficult to account for; and of which discovery I cannot help feeling a pride and pleasure in avowing myself the author; for I can, with confidence, assert, that if the teeth and gums are regularly cleaned with the dentifric apparatus, recommended by the author, no caries can possibly take place. This then is a simple and clear view of the subject, and the grand *desideratum* for retaining these important organs in a sound and healthy state, to the latest period of existence. The mode of cleaning the teeth, as usually

performed, is to rub them with a brush and a preparation of tooth powder, or tinctures, (to which some great quality is ascribed); but, in whatever way it is employed, the source of the evil still remains; *for the interstices and irregularities of the teeth afford a lodgement for whatever is taken into the mouth; and no contrivance hitherto discovered can, from these parts, remove the accumulation.*

After much experience and reflection on the subject, I found it necessary to construct a dentifric apparatus, which is found to answer every purpose, and to obviate the defects in common practice. This apparatus consists of three parts, contained in a small case, with a dental mirror, fit for the toilet or the pocket.

The first part to be used is the brush. It is made hollow in the middle, to embrace every part of the teeth, except the interstices; and thus, at one operation, the top, (a part hitherto entirely neglected) the outer and inner surfaces are completely freed from all extraneous matter. The second part is the dentifric polisher, for removing roughness, stains, &. from the enamel, and restoring to the teeth their natural smoothness and colour. The third part is the *waxed silken thread*, which, though simple, is the most important. It is to be passed through the interstices of the teeth, between their necks and the arches of the gums, to dislodge that irritating matter *which no brush can remove, and which is the real source of disease.* With this apparatus, thus regularly and daily used, the teeth and gums will be preserved free from disease; the use of powders, tinctures, &. will be superseded; and the breath will not be loaded with that putrid effluvia, which, besides its public annoyance, is the cause of numerous disorders. Indeed, were persons sufficiently attentive to cleanliness of the mouth, diseases of the teeth and gums might be prevented, without the neces-



sity of any painfull operation, which would contribute no less to the improvement of the features of the countenance, than to the promotion of general health and comfort. Having thus pointed out the simple and succesfull method of preserving the teeth and gums, and rendering the breath agreeable, we will now consider their treatment when in a diseased state, and rectify the practice of former dentists.

*A Practical Guide to the Management of the Teeth Comprising a Discovery of the Origin of Caries or Decay of the Teeth.*

London, 1818.

L. S. PARMLY.  
*Dental Professor.*

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