

the teeth, still the retraction of the lips remained, notwithstanding the recent advantages obtained. M. Blandin, who was consulted by Mr. Brewster, was of the opinion that by an incision made into the myrtiform muscle, and a proper compression adapted, the second infirmity might be remedied. This small but important operation was performed by the Surgeon we have named above, assisted by Dr. Olliffe.

The muscle of the lip was seized by pincers, and the section made by curved scissors. Two elliptical incisions were performed on the mucous membrane of each side of the corner of the lip—this being done, the lip was turned up, and the section of the fibres of the myrtiform muscle given by means of an incision made by gliding along the maxillary bone a short distance. After this operation, the edges of the incision made upon the sides of the curvature, were brought together by means of a suture, and thus the lip was drawn down, the exuberant portion of the mucous membrane destroyed, and this organ enabled to regain its proper form. The whole was kept in its proper position by means of an apparatus made for the purpose by Mr. F. Martin.

No marring accident took place. The tenth day, the threads were withdrawn, the re-union of the parts was complete; but the apparatus was continued on for some time longer.

It is two months since the operation, the lip has regularly shapen itself, and exactly covers the teeth now replaced in their proper situations, and can perform all the functions which it is called upon for siezing and holding aliment, and for the articulation of sounds.

The utterance of speech which before was almost impossible, or at least very troublesome and disagreeable, has been entirely changed as to its nature, and is now performed without difficulty.

This notice is peculiarly fit here, in consideration of the singular method employed in remedying the deformity of the lip, and its successful issue. But that which above all merits attention, is the immense benefit and improvement to the jaw (derived from the skill of Mr. Brewster) judged as incurable by other practitioners of the continent of Europe.

We notice it with so much the more pleasure as there is in this operation a manifest improvement if we compare its simple methods, easily to be applied, and powerful in their action, with ligatures and the extraction of the teeth, so often recommended and performed, as if ever in despair of a remedy sufficiently proper for an evil so afflicting, and unfortunately so common on account of the little care which many parents bestow in watching the second dentition of their children.

Signed, S. P. D. M. P.

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*A serious impediment in the speech removed by a simple operation upon the teeth.*—By E. MAYNARD, M. D.

In May, 1840, I separated the superior central incisors of Maj. W. of this city, for the removal of incipient caries. A few days afterwards he informed me that the operation had been doubly beneficial, as *it had perfectly removed a very troublesome impediment in his speech which had afflicted him from infancy!* When articulating a word beginning with 'th' his tongue would adhere to the superior incisors, and the roof of his mouth

so firmly as to render it necessary to drop his chin before he could pronounce the required sound. Separating the central incisors opened an *air passage* to the roof of the mouth, above the end of the tongue. This prevented the formation of a vacuum there, and of course relieved the tongue from atmospheric pressure—the apparent cause of the difficulty.

*Washington, Feb. 20, 1841.*

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[ From the Medical Repository of 1818, Vol. 4th, New Series. ]

### OBSERVATIONS

*On the Use and Functions of the Salivary, Lachrymal, and other Glands in the Human System—by H. H. HAYDEN, ESQ., Dental Surgeon, Baltimore.*

Having taken a comparative view of different nations and tribes of mankind, and noticed in a brief manner, the prevalence of good or bad teeth among them, and the probable effect of habits and actions in producing, or promoting decay in the teeth, when considered relatively, as to climate; having, in a more particular manner, pointed out the effects, and its operations in promoting the premature decay of teeth so generally in the United States, viz: by the general prevalence of glandular affections; I shall, in the next place endeavor, not only to prove my position as it respects the glands, but to point out and identify what (at least in my opinion) constitutes the universal cause of decay of human teeth.

In treating of the subject of Infantile Dentition, I have assigned as the cause of most of the evils attendant on that period, or at least during the prevalence of the symptoms, that of morbid or acrid secretions: I have there pointed out the existence of this agent, and its operation on the infant alveolar processes and teeth; also, its prevalence and operations, as an effect of certain diseases, particularly the measles, small pox, and high inflammatory or malignant fevers, and in such a manner, as not to leave a doubt of its influence or capacity to act upon and destroy bone.

Therefore, I feel no hesitation in saying, that the decay of human teeth is occasioned almost universally by an acrid, or morbid secretion from the mouth and gums.

Before I proceed to describe the manner in which this agent is employed in the destruction of the human teeth, and of its operations in the endless variety of cases in which it occurs, it seems necessary, to establish the fact beyond a doubt, that there is such a thing as morbid or acrid secretions in the mouth; otherwise my views, however plausible, cannot be sustained. In order to which, it becomes necessary likewise, to take a cursory physiological view of the human mouth, and some of the neighboring parts.