

## ARTICLE XIII.

THE INFLUENCE OF PREGNANCY ON THE  
CARIES OF THE TEETH.

---

 DR. S. BIRD.
 

---

In a number of tables the author records the results of his careful examinations. The teeth of 200 mothers, being *primi secundi* and *multiparæ*, of an average age of 18.8 years, were examined and for comparison the caries frequency of 100 *multiparæ* of an average age of 17.3 was noted, giving the figures of the following table :

	AGE.	CARIES.
Mothers, -	18.8	17.9 present.
Non-mothers, -	17.3	16.22 "

By comparing the various tables, the writer concludes that: The caries of mothers is not more frequent than that of non-mothers. The tables further show that there is no increase in the number of carious teeth with the increase of the number of child-births and consequently no influence of pregnancy upon the frequency of caries. And further: In accordance with the comparative results obtained he denies any direct communication between gravity and caries. Pregnant women suffer occasionally from neuralgia of the teeth and gingivitis. The increased acid condition may cause unpleasant effects, but probably the constant hyperæmia of the breath in gravity and in consequence thereof in the pulps of the teeth may bring about the various forms of toothache, more so if there be caries or chronic pulpitis present. Till now the theory has been favored that during pregnancy the teeth lose a large amount of their calcium salts to help in building up the osseous system of the *fœtus*, and are, therefore, more

easily subjected to caries. This theory is absolute and fallacious. If the organism should be in need of a larger amount of lime-salts, the food-stuffs will satisfy this want by an increased assimilation of calcium. Even the poorest food contains more lime than mother and foetus need. Resorption goes hand in hand with inflammatory symptoms. These might be produced in bone but never in tooth-substance. Furthermore, Williams has shown that formed enamel is not subjected to metabolic changes, and Black's investigations show that the teeth of mothers who have born several times are not any poorer in lime-salts than those of other people.—"Vierteljahresschrift für Zahnheilkunde."

---

### Monthly Summary.

---

**BROKE A TOOTH AND BLED TO DEATH.**—William Oswald Billups, the thirteen year old grandson of Major W. J. Houston, of Decatur, died yesterday morning. His death was the result of breaking one of his upper jaw teeth while eating dinner, Thursday, and from the trivial hurt he bled to death.

The case has few parallels in the annals of medicine, albeit enough instances of the sort have been recorded by physicians to establish beyond all doubt that deaths have been similarly caused before.

Billups belonged to a class of physical idiocrats popularly known as "bleeders"—a person, as the word implies, affected with a predisposition to bleed. That blood lacks the peculiar property that causes coagulation. Hence, the slightest wounds are dangerous to their lives, for once a flow of blood is started, to check it is almost impossible.

That the boy belonged to this class; his mother, Mrs. Robert R. Billups, and his grandfather, Major Houston, were aware. Some years ago a brother of his sustained a slight cut on the index finger, and the only way in which the resulting loss of the vital fluid could be stopped was by the use of a