

Future of Teeth—Continued

teeth and about one-third have abscess formation. While at college age, we hear of 3,000 students being examined at one institution and only ten perfect sets of teeth being found.

Cavity formation due to bacteria entering through the enamel of the teeth occurred less often when people had little or no sugar in their diet, Dr. Moodie points out. Then too, he adds, the gritty food eaten by many tribes wore off the teeth so rapidly that caries seldom gained a foothold. The grit consisted of sand, bits of stone from grinding bowls, pieces of nut shell, seeds, bits of bone. Such extra materials were carelessly mixed in with the food when it was prepared or eaten. The teeth all wore down evenly until pulp infections occurred and then abscesses formed. After that, pain would cause the individual to chew unevenly and the teeth would wear unevenly. This would also cause disturbances of the joint surfaces near the ear and possibly deafness.

Some tribes knew the tortures of toothache much better than others. Among the early inhabitants of New Mexico caries often attained a great development, so that molar teeth were reduced to mere shells, with cavities extending far down into the roots. And a study of 300 Indian skulls from California showed Dr. R. W. Leigh that one Indian in four had carious teeth.

"Among modern white people, the wisdom teeth offer great disturbances and sources of pain from being impacted and decayed," Dr. Moodie says. "It certainly seems probable that our wisdom teeth are on the road to extinction, and if the white people lose their teeth the wisdom teeth will be the first to disappear."

Science is only now probing the facts about nutrition in its connection with tooth building and the facts about the bacteria involved in pyorrhea and dental decay. Such knowledge might be expected to play a major role in warding off the toothless age of the race.

Dr. Moodie points out that some people today are largely immune to diseases of the teeth. In the same household a brother may suffer from one decaying tooth after another while his sister, otherwise no healthier than he, may escape all dental troubles. If the factors that bring about that immunity can be understood and the knowledge generally applied, the dental evolution of the race may turn

out to be a matter of general improvement of the health and strength of the teeth rather than the specialized, horny gums which have been pessimistically predicted.

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Rear tires of an automobile wear one-fifth faster than front tires, according to a recent experiment.

A plant now being erected in Germany will manufacture citric acid by fermentation of molasses.

America's death toll of fighters in the World War in two years was 37,000; 96,000 Americans were killed by accidents in 1928.

Reindeer meat differs little from beef or veal of the same grade, but in general contains less fat and a little more protein.

Indian medicine men were the first to use bark and leaves of the witch hazel plant to alleviate pain, a botanist states.

An underground camera which photographs the progress of drilling for oil wells is an aid to the drillers in keeping the hole to the proper course.

Easter lilies are grown commercially in Florida.

Government experts have developed apparatus to calculate the amount of air passing through different fabrics.

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NATURE RAMBLINGS



Feeding the Snowbirds

There is a large population of birds that either remain with us through the winter or come down from Canada during the snowy season, and these cheerful little tumblers in feathers often find life hard when the weather is cold and the snows are deep. The crumbs from our tables are feasts for them, and a dish of water is a grateful gift for dry little throats that cannot find any that has not been frozen into solid ice.

Scattering crumbs on the snow or the open ground is well enough, and you will be thanked for it; but it is much better to put it into a box on top of a post, where the little feasters will not be subject to the sudden on-fall of a sneaking cat. Such a box may be simply a shallow tray made of the bottom of an ordinary small wooden packing case. But an open tray fills up with snow, so that it is better to have it sheltered from the prevailing winds with a partial wooden canopy. Into this box go the breadcrusts, pieces of carrot and other bounty you may have for the birds. But a special gift, a lump of suet, should be wired or nailed to the post or to the branch of a tree nearby, to give the birds a hearty meal of animal stuff with plenty of calories in it.

When you give them water, do not stick strictly to the Biblical "cup of cold water." In freezing weather cold water will quickly turn to ice. Warm up the water until it is as hot as good hot coffee or tea, and pour it into a warmed pan. Then it will last many times as long before it goes solid.

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In the Island of Jersey cabbages grow taller than a man's head, and the long stalks are dried and polished and sold to tourists for walking sticks.