

TEETH.

All Sorts of Superstitions Concerning the Teeth—Charms and Other Remedies for Toothache—English and Irish Recipes. The Prayer Cure.

The teeth and the aches to which they give rise have been subjects of many strange ideas among uneducated people. Teeth have even been worshipped, and are still venerated as relics in some Catholic shrines.

There was a tradition that, from the time Chosroes, the Persian, carried off a piece of the true cross from Constantinople, the number of teeth in the mouths of men were reduced from thirty-two to twenty-three. It is needless to say that we still have thirty-two. Teeth have often been worn as amulets.

OMENS AND ADAGES.

There are many omens connected with infants' teeth, as well as those of adults. If a child teeths early, it is thought in England to predict more children.

The period of teething being an anxious one in childhood, it is extremely important to have it over with in Sussex, England, a necklace of beads made from peony root was placed on the child's neck to assist this operation.

Folk lore is full of odd notions about the toothache, and many queer remedies are current for it.

One of the most potent remedies was thought to be a charm of some kind or other. In England this charm is a rhyme or prayer written on a piece of paper.

A work published in 1595 prescribes the following remedy. The patient was to inhale the smoke from a vessel in which dried herbs were mixed with live coals.

ANOTHER STRANGE REMEDY.

Nearly a century later we find another strange remedy. "With an iron nail raise and cut the gum from about the teeth until it bleed, and that some of the blood spill upon the nail.

Another old writer of the same period, Aubrey, gives popular remedies for the toothache. A splinter of wood from a gibbet was thought efficacious in the north of England.

Some of the Irish cures for the toothache were fully as ghastly as those cited above. One of these empirical recipes bids you go to a grave, kneel upon it, say three paters and three aves for the soul of the dead, then chew a handful of grass taken from the grave, spitting it out.

Another remedy is to vow never to comb your hair on Friday, invoking the Creator, the Virgin and the new moon.

Just how far it is the duty of a man or a woman either—to let an outside take his valuable time from business affairs is, in my mind, a question. I think none of us ought to sacrifice a whole morning or an entire afternoon to the polite duty of being bored to death by people whose woe we cannot help.

A WARM PROCEEDING.

Brown—What's the matter, Dumley! You look hot about something. Dumley (angrily)—Hot! I should say so. I was around at the Eagle just now, and that fool Featherly dropped a chunk of ice down my back. Enough to make any man hot!—New York Sun.

BONNIE GIRZIE O' GLENBRAE.

Lean me, lassie, but I lo'e thee, And my thoughts run like a sang, As the burn adoon the coorrie, Louping wi' sheer joy a-lang.

'Mang the lave thee only I lo'e I, And my heart is like a bloom, As a gowan on the laugh side, Bursting wi' love's pure perfume;

Wad ye sing my thoughts, my dawtie, Yours wad lift fond symphony; Wad ye wear my heart bloom ever, Yours wad fellow blossoms be;

Habits of the French Bourgeois.

It is the middle class that gives the best example of the average habits of the nation. And, judging by the standard, I should say that we Americans were the most self-indulgent people on the face of the earth.

In many households tablecloths are not used except at dinner time, and knives and forks are never changed during the course of a meal.

Seeing the Color of Stars.

This matter of color is one of the greatest mysteries of sight. We frequently read that in Arabia, Australia and the Cape of Good Hope the stars are not only much brighter than in our misty northern sky, but they show their different colors with great splendor.

Moral Influence of Climate.

Modern French scientists are nothing if not methodical, and have repeatedly called attention to the curious regularity in the geographical distribution of certain vice and virtues.

The idea that a low temperature begets an instinctive craving for alcoholic tonics seems disproved by the teetotalism of the Patagonian savages, who horsewhip every Spanish stimulant monger without benefit of clergy.

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