

accurate account of the food had been got it had shown that the conformation of the jaw and the wearing of the teeth corresponded to the amount of mastication which the food stimulated or demanded. There was once a discussion in the *Lancet* on the matter, in which it was contended that the Kaffirs in South Africa lived almost exclusively on soft mealie pap. When investigating the matter he had some of the mealie pap sent from South Africa, and he found that it stimulated vigorous mastication, although it was made in the form of porridge. It had the same effect even if it were boiled for an hour or two, and the effect was similar to that when one ate nuts. It was difficult to swallow nuts until they were finely comminuted, and so it was with mealies. Over and above this he had found in Ratzel's "History of Mankind" that five Kaffirs could devour an ox in one day and a half, eating sinews, entrails, and everything. He investigated some other cases in which it was said that the rice was softened as we softened it. But in China, for example, it was not cooked soft, but each grain was whole and separate, and the consequence was that when taken into the mouth it stimulated mastication. Moreover, when once a child has got into the habit of masticating he could not swallow without that mastication. Chinese children were given quantities of sugar-cane, which could not be swallowed. The child sucked and chewed it, but the fibrous part was not swallowed; thus the child learnt to separate the fibrous part which was not swallowed from the juices which were sucked and swallowed. Consequently, at an early age the Chinese child learnt to masticate food.

The annual dinner of the Association was held the same evening. The President was in the chair.

## Abstracts.

### FAUCES.

Cobb, Farrar (Boston) and Simmons, Channing C. (Boston). - *The Results in Cases of Cancer of the Tonsils, Tongue and Jaws, operated on at the Massachusetts General Hospital during the eight years from January 1, 1892, to January 1, 1900.* "Boston Medical and Surgical Journal," April 13, 1905.

The cases of cancer of the tonsils were eight, and in only two was an attempt made to remove the whole growth. All the cases were traced and found to be dead, but the number being so small the authors do not consider it justifiable to draw conclusions from them alone.

Macleod Yearsley.