

**OPENING OF THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION AT ANTWERP.**

The International Exhibition at Antwerp was opened on the 5th of May, with great *éclat*. The King and Queen of the Belgians, accompanied by the court, came up from Brussels in a special train and were received by the Count of Flanders and an assemblage of the people, sixty thousand in number. Our engraving shows the appearance of the front of the Exhibition Building on the arrival of the royal party. The Exhibition grounds are 200 acres in extent and are filled with many beautiful buildings. They include halls for exhibiting industrial and commercial products, machinery, electrical appliances, fine arts, and the various sciences. The buildings are of iron and steel, roofed with zinc. The Royal Society of Fine Arts has a splendid building for the exhibition of paintings, sculpture, engravings, and architecture, in which contributions by all the principal European artists have been gathered. Among other subjects are reproductions of the mediæval buildings for which Antwerp was formerly noted; the drawbridge of the Kitbort Gate is shown. The original stone pillars belonging to the gateway have been preserved and are here put in place. Many other wonderful exhibits of the olden times are shown. Added to these are modern improvements,

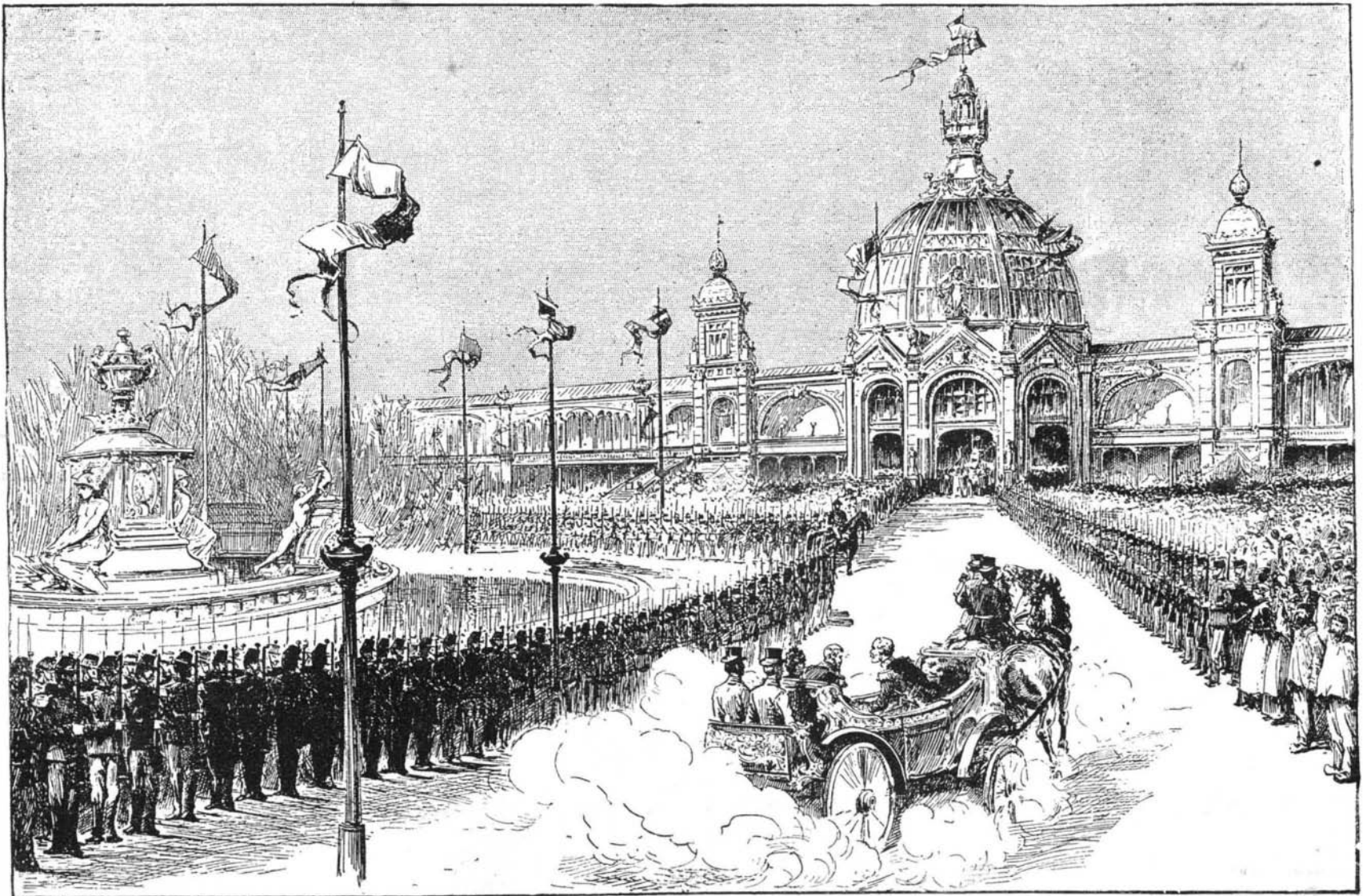
**The Teeth and Civilization.**

On May 8, Dr. Wilberforce Smith read a short communication before the Anthropological Institute on the teeth of ten Sioux Indians attached to the Wild West Show. His investigation showed that in regard to molars and premolars (the only teeth examined), these Indians were wholly free from caries. In the discussion which followed the reading of the paper, it was mentioned that the same fact was revealed in the skulls of the Fourth Egyptian Dynasty brought to England by Dr. Flinders Petrie, and in some skulls examined by Dr. Wilberforce Smith himself, which were derived from the ruins of Pompeii. The teeth of the Indians, both old and young, and those in the skulls just referred to, all showed more or less wear of the cusps, which is a most unusual circumstance in the teeth of modern civilized people, and it was thought that some difference in the food, or its mode of preparation, would be required to account for the absence of signs of wear in our time.

Now it has never been proved that the increasing prevalence of caries is due to weakness of the teeth owing to comparative disuse, but there is nevertheless great probability in the inference, especially as signs of wear and freedom from caries appear to occur together, and *vice versa*. There is, however, a further

on their nervous energy. It was also noted that people in towns lose their teeth more rapidly than those living in the country, which also bears out the idea here suggested. On the other hand, the savage is seldom required to strain his facial nerves continuously for any length of time, and in reference to general nervous expenditure he enjoys long periods of rest which are wholly denied to the civilized man in towns. No doubt, in consequence of the excessive calls on our nervous energy, the distribution of it is undergoing modification in civilized man, and parts not used to any extent are being deprived of the supply necessary to healthy growth.

It is much to be feared that the teeth, though so essential to the welfare of the body, are in this predicament. But we are sadly in need of more definite information than is at present available, and it is partly in the hope that some of the readers of *Nature*, who have opportunities which I do not possess, may be induced to test this and other ideas relative to the increase of caries, that I have written on the subject. The whole question is at present much obscured by misconceptions due to ignorance. One fact, however, emerged only too clearly from Dr. Wilberforce Smith's investigation, namely, that while the grinding teeth of civilized men of middle age are either missing or



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modern machinery, post office exhibits, telegraphs, telephones, electrical lights and mechanism. One of the most interesting exhibits is the Castle in the Air, which consists of an enormous balloon attached to the ground by cables. Passengers can ascend in the balloon and take a wonderful view of the surrounding country. Many of the most prominent exhibits of Chicago have been transferred to Antwerp. The United States is well represented. The American building is one of the finest of the foreign structures; the dimensions are 150 feet by 240 feet. The facade is very beautiful; a broad marble stairway leads to a vestibule 110 feet wide. In this building a great many rare exhibits of American industry are shown. Among them is a model shoe factory in full operation. The American fire appliances are shown, comprising steam fire engines, ambulances, fire alarm and electrical devices used in connection with the fire departments. The United States government makes a very fine display. In the Antwerp exhibition, to many choice exhibits which were shown at Chicago are added wonderful collections of curious things from all parts of Europe, which, by reason of their delicate and precious character, were not transported to the American show. Altogether, the exhibition promises to be a great attraction during the present summer. It will close on November 12. We are indebted for our engraving to the *Daily Graphic*, of London.

point in regard to the existing liability to the attacks of caries, which I think can be best explained by a transference of nourishment to other parts governed by the same nerves. On inquiry of several dentists, I find that the teeth most subject to decay are the molars, and of these the upper molars are more often attacked than those in the lower jaw. The molars of the upper jaw are fed by a branch of the fifth nerve, and in modern life this nerve has, perhaps, more strain put upon it than any other in the body. We use our eyes, partly supplied by the ophthalmic branch of this nerve, not at intervals, but often closely throughout a long day. And it seems, therefore, that with so many increasing calls on this bundle of nerve fibers, the filaments sent to the teeth are, by an automatic economy of expenditure, robbed of the energy necessary to perform their functions properly. The teeth through lack of use may not excite the nerves to natural action, and thus from both sides there is a failure of function, and the teeth are consequently more and more unable to resist the attacks of caries. I am disposed to attach some importance to this explanation, as I find that those who have great calls on their nervous energy are more liable to caries than people of quieter habit and slower temperament.

Dr. Wilberforce Smith mentioned the alarming increase of dental decay among hospital nurses, whose occupation is certainly one demanding a constant drain

practically useless for their purpose, the ancients enjoyed a perfect set of teeth till advanced years, and modern savages enjoy the same blessing. — *Arthur Ebbels, in Nature*.

**Convention of American Society of Civil Engineers.**

The American Society of Civil Engineers will hold their 26th annual convention at the Cataract House, Niagara Falls, N. Y., beginning at 10 a. m. on Wednesday, June 20, and ending on Monday, June 25. The programme, while not yet fully prepared, has been sufficiently developed to indicate that a most interesting convention is intended. At Niagara Falls the works of the power company and different mills established there will be visited. Arrangements will be made for special railroad rates and accommodation at the hotel. A special committee of the board of direction has been maturing the plans for some time past, and the president of the society has appointed the following local committee of arrangements:

W. A. Brackenridge, chairman; John Bogart, S. J. Fields, Edward B. Guthrie, Joseph Hobson, W. T. Jennings, W. C. Johnson, E. H. Keating, Albert H. Porter, Benjamin Rhodes, Pemberton Smith; Walter McCulloh, secretary.

A LITTLE carbolic acid added to the whitewash will kill the vermin in the henhouse.