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## On the Vitality of Dental Enamel.

WILLIAM J. GIES.

*From the Laboratory of Biological Chemistry of Columbia University at the College of Physicians and Surgeons.*

Various common pathological changes in the dental enamel of fully erupted human teeth, which destroy its protective function, are ascribed by some investigators to intrinsic nutritional alterations, rather than to extrinsic influences. The proof that enamel contains protein<sup>1, 2</sup> has induced several investigators to regard its presence as indicative of nutritional capacity, despite the fact that, although permeable to water and various substances, enamel completely lacks power of self-repair after injury and has no cellular nuclei. That the contained protein (probably keratin) is not associated with intrinsic nutritional changes in the enamel of erupted teeth is indicated by the writer's further observation that conventional tests for proteolytic and amylolytic enzymes, applied to extracts of pulverized normal enamel, were completely negative. These tests, to be extended, will include studies of abnormal enamel.

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## Occurrence of Cystine in Sweat of Cystinurics.

HOWARD B. LEWIS.

*From the Laboratory of Physiological Chemistry, Medical School, University of Michigan.*

In 1871, Dewar and Gamgee<sup>1</sup> stated that, in some cases, cystine was present in the sweat of cystinurics, apparently basing their conclusions largely upon the observation that, in cases where cystine was present in the urine, silver coins carried in the pocket were observed rapidly to become blackened. Garrod,<sup>2</sup> however, was unable to obtain evidence of the presence of cystine in the sweat in the one case studied by him.

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<sup>1</sup> Bödecker and Gies, *PROC. SOC. EXP. BIOL. AND MED.*, 1924, **xxii**, 175.

<sup>2</sup> Gies, *J. Dental Res.*, 1926, **vi**, 143.

<sup>1</sup> Dewar, J., and Gamgee, A., *J. Anat. Physiol.*, 1871, **v**, 142.

<sup>2</sup> Garrod, A. E., "Inborn Errors of Metabolism," London, 1923, 2nd edition, p. 103.