

**ESSAY ON THE IRREGULARITIES
OF THE TEETH: WITH SPECIAL
REFERENCE TO A THEORY OF
CAUSATION AND THE PRINCIPLES
OF PREVENTION AND TREATMENT**

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Essay on the Irregularities of the Teeth: With Special Reference to a Theory of Causation and the Principles of Prevention and Treatment by J. Sim Wallace

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J. SIM WALLACE

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THE IRREGULARITIES OF
THE TEETH

WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO A THEORY OF
CAUSATION AND THE PRINCIPLES OF
PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

BY

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PREFACE

THIS book is a collection of essays which appeared originally in the *Journal of the British Dental Association* (January and February 1900), and in the *Dental Record*, June 1901—August 1903.

Although written separately and under different titles, I trust that in combination they constitute a fairly coherent whole. Clustering round one central idea, they form a much more conclusive argument than the separate articles did.

I am much indebted to Mr. William Rushton, the Editor of the *Dental Record*, for his kindly appreciation and for the prominent position which he gave the separate essays in that journal.

J. SIM WALLACE.

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THE IRREGULARITIES OF THE TEETH

INTRODUCTION

It is with a little diffidence that I venture to bring forward a theory of the causes of the irregularities of the teeth, for although I may feel very confident that it is true, there is always the thought that the score or two of theories¹ which have preceded this have been advocated in the fullest confidence by their respective propounders. This reflection does not strike us till we find that we have tried to carry our own point just as our predecessors tried to carry theirs. If an apology is needed it might be pointed out that there may be extenuating circumstances, and in this case there is one at least of first-rate importance. Towards the close of last century there sprang up a school of biologists who denied that acquired characters were transmitted. The question being one of great importance and interest, I made as full an investigation of the arguments which had been advanced as seemed necessary for me to come to a definite conclusion. I was fascinated with the subject,

¹ Talbot, "Irregularities of the Teeth." Introduction.