

the result being that these useful members of the human system are going to destruction by the wholesale, and that, too, in the growing period of life, just at the time, above all others, when they should be in a healthy masticating condition, in order that the children may develop into healthy men and women. What makes this condition of things more serious is the fact that parents are not aware of this change, they supposing that their children's teeth that are aching are the first or shedding teeth, and that the new teeth will soon take their place. Very few parents know the difference between the temporary and permanent teeth. Nothing but semi-annual dental inspection of school children's teeth will remedy this evil. By its adoption every parent would know, twice a year, the exact condition of their children's teeth in time to save them all before the nerves became exposed or the teeth had ached, while the operation could be done without pain at one sitting, and that with less expense per tooth to the parents, as well as less annoyance to the dentists and their other patients sitting in the adjoining rooms. However, before a law can be procured, giving school boards power to require school children to bring a certificate from their family dentist, it will be necessary to make dental hospital provision for the care of the teeth of those children whose parents are unable to pay the usual fee, as well as for those who are not able to pay anything. Having seen the wretched condition of children's teeth as, perhaps, no other person has had the opportunity of doing, I feel it would be a crime in me if I did not do all in my power to remedy this evil. Those who have read the Toronto papers during the past few years know some of the difficulties I have had to contend with in my mission work in Toronto, which has finally reached the climax by the city sending their bailiff and seizing the dental hospital furniture for taxes. However, by doing so they have kindly relieved me from all further care for their poor children. Now my mission field is no longer confined to one small city, as I had supposed it was to be, but is enlarged, so that it takes in suffering childhood, rich or poor, the wide world over. My mission work is also changed. Instead of standing over poor, frightened children, wrenching out permanent teeth that might have been saved if I could have reached the children in time, I am now calling the attention of parents and the public to the serious condition of children's teeth and asking them to organize dental hospital boards to cooperate with dentists in the cities and towns in making dental hospital provision for the poor, and in petitioning the legislature for an amendment to the school law, giving school boards, where the citizens desire it, power to require school children to have their teeth examined. The Hamilton and London dentists have all promised to give half a day once a month to care for the teeth of their poor, if the city provides and furnishes the necessary hospital rooms.