

advantage to care for the teeth of their policy holders. The free dental infirmaries connected with the public schools have demonstrated first, that the time lost in having teeth attended to was far less than time lost formerly by toothache and disability caused by decayed teeth; second, that the cost of keeping teeth in order was more than compensated for by mouth health, and, therefore, reduction in cost of medical services; third, that child was better mentally and physically. And not only the Germans, but all the other countries are beginning to recognize the economical value of clean mouths and good public health. Through the efforts of the health authorities preventable diseases are showing a great decrease the past few years, and the public are beginning to appreciate the preventive measures. The proper care of the mouths by the people will probably be the greatest of all the endeavors of the health boards. In most countries it is compulsory to have needed dental work done before entering the army. The same is required of those joining the Nursing Staff of Hospitals. If the medical profession and the Government recognize this requirement, it proves to the general public that proper mouths are necessary in all occupations. Match factories now have compulsory dental inspection and treatment, and since its inception there have been practically no deaths from phosphorous poisoning.

So far the educating of the public in oral hygiene matters, has been done through the dental profession almost entirely. Though the members of the governments to some extent recognize the importance of such education it is hard for them to pass laws regarding it, until there is a public demand for such laws. The Legislatures and boards of education have been approached by the different dental Societies, but little real progress has been made. Like all new movements the campaign is slow to get going. The Governments want absolute proof of the necessity of the work, and while the dental profession itself is sure of the necessity, they have not as yet statistics for the proof of it. However, the dental Society of Rochester, N.Y., is starting on some experiments which they feel will furnish the required proof. They are taking some children who have been attending the public school for delinquents (who

are, of course, behind in their grade), and putting their mouths in the best possible condition. None of their environments will be changed. The dentists propose to show that these children will make a marked improvement in their studies, and possibly be transferred to the regular school, the change being affected through the dental treatment entirely. The Societies realize that it must be through the public school that the masses are taught Oral Hygiene. The modern public is rapidly growing into the habit of looking to the school for reform measures of various kinds, and as regards the child, the modern school-teacher is fast assuming the cares and responsibilities that once rested upon the parent, and it is through the child as it grows up, that the dental profession intend to educate the parent on Hygiene. That is our only hope of teaching the great mass of foreign immigrants who come to our shores each year, who are unable to read or write our language. The physical development, and the relation of the physical to the mental and moral phases of growth has received a large share of attention in the schools lately. With the information at hand the fact is established that forty per cent. of the absence from school is caused by improper oral conditions. The school board of Birmingham, Ala., have established three summer schools, because there was such a number of delinquents, it would be economy to raise the children up to standard rather than carry them through another school year. This delinquency was all caused by sickness among the pupils. Such conditions are showing the school boards the positive necessity of proper dental treatment for the students. Until lately the dentists had to coax for permission to examine the school childrens' teeth, though it was free of all expenses to the school. Thanks to their persistent endeavors, however, the former view on compulsory examination is changing.

There is now this inspection in every civilized country. In Germany the investigation into school childrens' teeth was begun thirty years ago, and now there are about fifty free Clinics. Sweden has over thirty. They are established also in Prussia, France, Japan, Norway, the Phillipines and Russia. In the latter country, where the poor are supposed to be down-trodden, the children are given free dental treat-