

frontiersman; the crime not only of depriving him of a right, not a charity, he has so nobly earned, the right of an education, and the equally damnable crime of licensing men and institutions to degrade him.

Shall we not hereafter try to atone for these crimes, make the toiler less of a beast of burden and more of a man, close the bar and open the school?

WHAT A DENTIST MAY DO FOR HIS PATIENT

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Doctor Osler, asked once which was the most dangerous to life, alcohol or bad teeth, replied bad teeth. With the progress of science in recent years the field of the dentist has widened materially and the importance of his work for the social economy and well being of the community become more highly appreciated by the public.

Formerly, the reputation of a dentist depended upon his ability to extract teeth and replace them with artificial ones. Now, the skilful dentist is one who, by restoring and building up defective and diseased teeth, renders extraction unnecessary. It is said the highest art is to conceal art. This is especially true in dentistry, and the aim of the dentist should be to replace or repair the masticatory apparatus with the least appearance of artificiality in the mouth of the patient.

The practise of dentistry presents a two-fold aspect. It is both mechanical and medicinal. That is to say, the mechanical part deals with the preparation and filling of cavities, the restoration of teeth by crowns and bridges or by artificial dentures (plates) and the scaling of teeth for prophylactic treatment. On the other hand, the medicinal part deals with the treatment of pathological conditions as found in the oral cavity.

Formerly, possibly the mechanical side of dentistry was over-emphasized, but in these days of science and research the medicinal aspect is receiving greater attention. Modern dental science deals not only with local conditions which present themselves in the mouth, but seeks to discover the general systematic cause of which the pathological condition is the effect.

We are told that the mouth stands at the gateway of life and health. If this be true, how important is the condition of the teeth and the soft tissues of the oral cavity to the general health and comfort of the individual. There are many cases of inflamed tissues in the mouth due to a disordered stomach and conversely, a general pathological condition such as facial neuralgia, or even insanity itself, may be traced to some defective or impacted tooth in the mouth of the patient.

We will now consider more specifically the duties of the dentist. First of all, he must keep his instruments clean and sterilized, and in the second place he must be scrupulously clean himself. The work of the dentist is becoming more and more *preventive*. The patient should be taught the proper use of the tooth brush, a suitable tooth powder recommended and mouth washes, if necessary, prescribed for the gums and soft tissues. The importance of frequent examinations by the dentist should be considered, and the necessity of good teeth, a clean mouth and proper mastication, impressed upon the patient, if he would have a healthy stomach and immunity from disease. So many diseases, such as tuberculosis, scarlet fever, diphtheria, tonsillitis, mumps, etc., gain entrance to the system through the mouth.

Before a child is three years of age, all the temporary teeth are in position. These are twenty in number, ten in each jaw, and are intended by nature to be kept by the child until the permanent teeth are ready to take their place.

Some people ask, is it worth while filling and saving the first or temporary teeth? The reply is positive. By all means, they