

in some of the American schools, including the largest German school on this continent, besides the teeth of some hundreds of children just arrived from England, as well as from Russia, Syria, Japan, and of the Indians and half-breeds of our own country. The examination of so many thousands of children has given me an opportunity such as very few persons have had of noting the condition and the change that is going on in their teeth. I find that children's teeth decay at a much earlier period than they did formerly, and that the quality of the teeth is so much inferior that unless they are filled as soon as they begin to decay, when the cavities are very small and before the nerve pulp has become exposed, they are soon past all hope of being saved. I am speaking of the permanent teeth, not only of the sixth-year molars, but also of the twelfth-year molars, bicuspid, and superior incisors which now often begin to decay in a year or two after being erupted, and it is a very common thing to find some of them past being saved before they have been six months erupted.

"In all the cities I visited I found that 95 per cent. of the children had permanent teeth decayed, ranging in number from two to twenty per child, and that the same unhealthy and neglected condition universally existed, as very few of the children had any of their teeth filled, and the teeth and mouths of a large percentage of them were in a very unhealthy and often disgusting condition, not only injuring their own health but also the health of the teachers and the other children who are compelled to sit side by side with them in the often overcrowded and ill-ventilated school-room, inhaling the pestiferous air which has been exhaled by these children, having vile, dead, abscessed, pus-covered teeth and roots. During the six months when economy in fuel and fear of draughts compel the windows to be closed, this polluted air is heated up and breathed over and over again, and it is always getting viler as the hours go by. But this is not all; children whose parents try to care for their teeth are compelled to drink out of the same cup that these children have polluted with the pus that is so frequently exuding from the gums around the abscessed teeth and roots in their mouths. There is also another source of danger to the younger children from the common custom of chewing gum. The children often lend their gum to their playmates, and thus after being crunched into their vile teeth and mixed with pus it is placed in the mouths of other innocent and unsuspecting children.

"I am sure it is not necessary that I should say anything more to convince you of the need of some prompt action being taken to prevent this wholesale sacrifice of children's teeth and its accompanying effects on their health, education and prospects for useful lives. I shall just call your attention to one other thought, which