

and face of the child of mal-nutrition, septic poisoning and dangerously impaired vitality.

The child is weakened by malnutrition and septic poisoning until it falls a victim of one of the infectious diseases.

"An unclean mouth is the prize bacterial garden of the world." Cavities in decayed teeth form natural incubators for the growth and development of pathogenic germs, over twenty varieties of which have been found in the mouth. A child with its vitality lowered from malnutrition and septic poisoning, and its mouth a mass of uncleanness and decay, the breeding ground of disease organisms becomes a dangerous factor in the health of the community. There is not only the danger that the child itself fall a victim of one of the specific diseases, the germs of which may be found in the mouth, but that, itself free from clinical evidences of the disease, it may be scattering disease broadcast among those with whom it comes in contact. A few thousand children with mouths full of uncleanness and disease are a more serious menace to the community than a much greater amount of uncleanness in other situations that are already covered by health by-laws. The time is coming when this fact will be recognized in this country, and when children will be excluded from school who have uncared-for and unclean mouths. A school child at present is expected to have his shoes clean, and rightly so, while its mouth may be just as unclean as an uncared for mouth can be. It is unfortunate for the race that conditions were not reversed, with hygiene of the mouth preceding that of the boots.