

oral conditions prevailed. Think what that means, one year saved in five.

A few thousand 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 public schools 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 it were not reversed, with hygiene of the mouth preceding that of the boots. The mouth being such a reservoir for the reception and development of the germs of disease, we can readily see how essential it is that it should be kept in a sanitary condition. No woman would think of having her home beautifully decorated, polished floors, dainty rugs, everything in fact absolutely clean, and then allow the front entrance to contain several inches of mud and filth. A clean house would be an impossibility under such conditions. Just so with ourselves. A clean body can not be maintained and allow the vestibule—the mouth—to be filled with noxious, fermenting, germ-laden filth to be mixed with the food and carried to the stomach, there to interfere with digestion and ultimately to poison the entire system.

That a person may have good teeth and a hygienic mouth, care of the mouth should begin before that person has a single tooth. The infant's mouth must be kept in a cleanly condition from its birth. Its gums, its tongue, in fact the whole oral cavity must be washed just as regularly as it gets its body bath. A good solution for this purpose is borax and water, possibly slightly sweetened. Every root of every tooth sets in a socket by itself the bone surrounding the socket constituting what we term the Alveolar process. This socket grows with the tooth and serves in steadying it. The temporary tooth with its socket retains the space which is to be occupied by its successor, so if the tooth is lost prematurely the bone around the socket is absorbed, there being no further use for it and right here we have one of the first causes of irregularity in the permanent set. The systematic bathing of the oral cavity must be kept up all during early childhood if you would have perfect teeth in the second set. I believe the boric solution, earlier recommended, will prevent or at least retard, destructive influences. Should decay be discovered, the child should be immediately placed in the hands of your dentist and be properly cared for that these teeth may remain intact as long as Nature intended.

Before any of the temporary teeth are replaced, four of the