

that from 96 to 98 per cent of the mouths of the children in the public schools are in a faulty or diseased condition, leaving only a very small percentage with healthy mouths. In Edmonton, out of a class of forty examined ranging in age from eight to ten, only one child was found to have a healthy mouth. Reports from Halifax, New York and other cities are to the same effect. Ninety-two per cent. of the recruits in the German army were found to have defective teeth. It is estimated that in the United States, only 8 per cent. of the entire population receive dental attention. In Canada it is estimated that 20 per cent. received dental attention. Of the number of people who do receive dental attention, about 5 per cent. take the requisite care of the mouth and present themselves for examination and treatment with sufficient frequency.

What does this condition mean? It means that dental caries, or decay of the teeth, is rampant, the most prevalent disease known to modern civilization, which is producing more havoc in the human family than all other diseases put together. Dr. Osler, the noted physician, has said "that decayed teeth have caused more deterioration in man than alcohol." We are told that at least 95 per cent. of all tuberculosis infections take place through diseased or ill-kept mouths, and what is true of that disease is true of almost all other contagious or infectious diseases. Besides these diseases such conditions as enlarged glands, inflamed tonsils, septic catarrh of the stomach, indigestion, anemia, deafness and many other vicious conditions are directly or indirectly traceable to insanitary mouths. Deformed faces, handicapping individuals for life is another result, while diseased mental capacity has been proven beyond a doubt. No child can attain a high standard for scholarship with diseased and aching teeth. Many of the so-called "backward" children, are so partly, some entirely, from faulty mouth conditions, adenoids and enlarged tonsils. The greatest handicap of our educational system has ever had has been the mistaken attempt to produce a sound and cultured mind in an unsound body.

This has been clearly demonstrated recently in Cleveland, when a special class was formed, known as the Marion School Dental Squad. Some thirty were selected from among those having the worst mouths in the school. Their individual class standing was recorded, their mouths were then put in a healthy condition, and kept so by regular care. At the end of six months the records showed an average gain in proficiency in this class of over 54 per cent. A committee of the National Dental Association of U.S. the largest association of its kind on the continent, carried out these experiments and estimated that, with the average scholar, his working efficiency would be increased 20 per cent. if healthy