

terior incisors which now very frequently begin to decay within a year or two after being erupted. I have examined the teeth of a large number of adults from fifty to seventy years of age, who, like myself, have first-class sets of teeth, far better now than **ninety-five per cent.** of the children of to-day. In every city I visited I found the teeth of the children in the same neglected condition. Though almost every child had teeth requiring to be filled, there were not **five per cent.** who had any filling done. I found only one child whose teeth had been filled at the right time; the rest had been neglected until they were very far gone and were hardly worth being filled, showing that their parents were not systematic in attending to them, but only did so when the children had suffered very much. I did not find, in the schools, **three per cent.** of the children with as good teeth as I myself have at fifty-seven years of age.

In every kindergarten school I examined I found many of the children with from two to four of their permanent teeth decayed, while mine, that I got at their age are perfectly sound. I cannot, in words, picture the exceedingly unhealthy condition of the teeth and mouths of a large percentage of the children in the various schools I examined. Approximately from **one to five per cent.** of the children had sound sets of teeth; **fifteen per cent.** had teeth fairly good, only some of them requiring to be filled; about **fifty per cent.** had many teeth decayed, some of which were so very far advanced as to make it difficult to save them, as they would require to be treated for days or weeks, and that heathenish operation, the destroying of the nerve pulp, performed. This should never have to be performed on a child, as the opening at the apex of the root of a