

THE PRACTICE OF SCHOOL DENTISTRY IN THE PUBLIC AND POOR LAW SCHOOLS OF ENGLAND.*

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The purpose of this communication to the Dental Congress is to place before its members the actual condition of school dentistry, as practised at the present time in England in some of our Public and Poor Law Schools.

The work is yet limited, but still a distinct advance has been made during the last few years, and we have every reason to hope that school dentistry will be practised more extensively, and that an increasing number of the young in English schools will have the benefit of dental supervision as time progresses.

Mr. Fisher, of Dundee, was one of the first to call attention to the necessity of systematic attention to the young people in British schools, and, partly as a result of his efforts, the British Dental Association appointed a Schools Committee to investigate the subject and report to its members. The work done by members of the Association was invaluable, for they, after an immense amount of labor, examined large numbers of children belonging to every class of life, and the results have been presented to the profession in the form of statistics, published by the British Dental Association. A perusal of these figures will enable men to judge of the value of the work done by the Schools Committee, and realize fully the indebtedness of the dental world to them.

The present condition of school dentistry is undoubtedly owing to the work of the Schools Committee in educating public opinion, and, although we cannot record great progress, yet the movement in favor of dental supervision for the young people in the schools of England is increasing steadily, and the future is full of hope.

The public schools educate children of the upper and middle classes of England, and it is a satisfaction to know that, amongst schools of this class, will be found some where very thorough arrangements are made for dental supervision. The procedure is somewhat different in different schools, but an examination of the method of working will enable you to see in what degree.

Marlborough College.—All new boys must have their teeth examined by the dental surgeon at the beginning of the term. New boys, who are in the habit of being seen by a good dentist, are advised to visit him, if necessary, at the next vacation; where several teeth are very carious or are needing extraction, a chart is

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