

year 1885," said Dr. Jessen, "the care of the teeth was completely neglected in Germany. While the other principles of general hygiene were fully understood and appreciated, dentistry still remained, so to speak, the stepchild of medical science. In 1884 the first dental institutes were founded in Leipsic and Berlin, and a little later in Breslau. Thus dentistry was put in the way of becoming a factor in raising the standard of national health. There is now a dental institute in nearly every university, but still there are many of them due to private initiative and some of them are still deprived of proper assistance from the State. The progress of the movement in Germany was far from coming into full swing, since institutions connected with universities must be used for scientific purposes and the training of students, and therefore could not go directly to the education of the masses. They could not lay directly before the people the importance of the care of the teeth in general hygiene, but they sowed the first seed in treating poor patients in the university schools."

The story of Dr. Jessen goes on to outline the rise of the present larger movement in the country, which includes schools, institutions and the army. In about 1890 Dr. Rose, of Freiburg, in Brisgau, began to examine school children and soldiers in order to establish statistics of dental caries among the people. By his reports he drew the attention of influential circles to the danger which through the teeth threatens the national health. A further step was taken in this matter by the Dental Polyclinic of Strasburg University, which did not limit itself to examination, but considered treatment, especially the treatment of the poor gratis, children and adults. The immediate result was the slow development of the first municipal dental infirmary, which began its work in 1902.

In December of the same year Darmstadt opened a dental hospital for school children, founded by the Association of Dentists of Hesse, and in Hanover a similar institution had already been established by the local association, that of Niedersachsen. The country evidently was ripe for such a movement and during the next few years school clinics were established subsidized by the municipal authorities. Dental aid for school children has thus far been instituted in thirty-three German

towns. Thanks to the influence of these as well as to the distribution of booklets on dental hygiene, not only the authorities and well-informed classes, but also a great part of the less wealthy population now thoroughly understand the importance of proper care of the teeth.

Some of the results of the investigations in Germany show the widespread character of dental defects. It has been proven by the inspection of more than 150,000 school children that on an average nine out of every ten have carious teeth. The figures are in striking confirmation of Dr. Jessen's own statements, when, in 1898, he found from an examination of ten thousand school children in Strasburg, that less than five per cent., one in twenty, had good teeth. "That such unhealthy conditions of the mouth must hamper materially the physical and intellectual development of the child, need no longer be debated, for authorities now agree that the oral cavity is the entrance-gate for many illnesses."

To what extent these injuries exist even in earliest childhood is a matter to which we are not as yet fully awake. The facts have been established in Strasburg, where the infant schools have been under inspection. There are 32 such schools, an old French institution, a relic of the Strasburg before the war of 1870. These infant schools had an attendance in 1908 of 4,371 boys and girls, of from three to six years of age, half of the children being examined by dentists. For the purposes of comparison an equal number of children of the next age-group, six to eight years, were examined. In the former group 9,427 defective teeth were found, and in the latter group, 11,701. Among the little children only sixteen per cent. had sound teeth, which decreased in the older group to only seven per cent. This tremendous increase of dental deficiency progresses steadily, if no check is put upon it. The changing of the teeth, which lasts from the seventh to the twelfth year, cannot put a stop to the harm, for the disease is contagious, and the second teeth are affected by the decayed milk teeth as soon as they appear. The result for many children is that when they leave school, the mouth is completely diseased.

It is possible to follow the course of dental disease in the male sex only through the statistics at the time of enlistment for military service. From this time facts and