

Three of these organizations were in existence in the United States by 1920, and there was one in Canada. These disunited efforts fell short of meeting the need, and consequently a movement developed which resulted in the union of the four organizations in 1923 to form the American Association of Dental Schools. Its membership embraces all the dental schools in both countries, thirty-eight in the United States and five in Canada.

Another organization which has promoted dental education is the Dental Educational Council of America, established in 1909. Its concern has been primarily with higher standards of dental education and the improvement of the dental curriculum. The Council since 1918 has on several occasions classified the dental schools of the United States.

The charter of the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery specified that there should be at least one annual term of instruction of not less than four months in length. The first curriculum consisted of anatomy, pathology, physiology, therapeutics, clinical dentistry, and the related principles of surgery. The dental curriculum has since that time developed along the broad lines suggested in the first school.

The dental curriculum before 1885 usually extended through two terms ranging in length from three to five months—a total of about sixteen weeks. The National Association of Dental Faculties voted in 1884 to require all candidates for the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery to attend a dental school two full regular terms of not less than five months, each in separate

calendar years. A curriculum which sought to embody the ideas mentioned was recommended. Six years later (1891) the Association recommended a three-year curriculum, but a majority of the schools rejected the recommendation. The Association in 1899 approved a new three-year dental curriculum which served as a general model until 1916 when it was extended to four years. The four-year course of study in dentistry became the standard required in 1917-18 by the Dental Educational Council of America for a Class-A rating.

**I**N THE meantime the requirements for admission to the study of dentistry were increased. No general academic standards affecting admission to dental schools were in effect before 1884, and practically all students were accepted without special regard for their previous education. The National Association of Dental Faculties in 1884 required applicants for admission to a dental school to pass a preliminary examination which included "a good English education." An applicant who presented a diploma from a reputable school, or other evidences of literary qualifications, was admissible without examination. In 1897, after years of discussion, the minimum entrance requirement was set at the equivalent of that for admission to a high school. This was followed by the completion of one (1898), two (1902), and three (1907) years of high-school study, graduation from a high school (1910), and graduation from a four-year high school (1917). Eventually a number of schools required one year of academic