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APPOINTMENT OF DENTISTS TO HOSPITALS.

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Seventeen years ago, in an editorial in the June number of the *Canada Journal of Dental Science*, I discussed the question of creating subordinate dental departments in general hospitals, to afford gratuitous relief to the poor, as follows :

“ It is not to be expected that these institutions can afford to pay the same attention to diseased dentures as to diseased eyes ; or that the various ills to which the teeth are heir will receive a like conservative consideration with those of organs more vital. But it needs little argument to convince the commonest understanding of the importance of the teeth in the economy, and that proper treatment, whether applied to their salvation or their removal, involves no small modicum of personal comfort and general health. It is certain that the great number of teeth annually extracted in all general hospitals in Canada where a dentist is not attached, are not treated according to the golden rule or the first principles of dental surgery. Hospitals do the best they can with the existing arrangements, and make no pretensions or attempt to preserve decayed teeth. Patients are well aware that the only relief offered is extraction ; and as they are generally bad diagnosticians of their own trouble, hundreds of teeth are extracted that might have easily been saved. And even for this *dernier resort* hospitals are deficient in means and appliances. The wonder is that serious accidents do not often occur. Unnecessary suffering is inflicted, and it is a very com-