

really the least of the evils arising from decay of the teeth, and only serves as a danger signal or warning as to what will follow. It is the lowering of the general vitality of the body by the constant swallowing of half masticated and unsalivated food which puts the child with decayed teeth at such a disadvantage in the struggle for existence. German staticians prove that the children with defective teeth are intellectually inferior to those with healthy mouths, and loose much more time in their studies than what is required to keep their teeth in thorough repair. Therefore the German Government has adopted a regular system of inspection for school children's teeth, and in many centres has provided free dental hospitals for looking after the teeth of all those who cannot afford the services of a practicing dentist. Germany and the European countries in general have been much ahead of us on this side of the Atlantic in looking after the teeth of their children. We are only just awakening to the urgent necessity for adopting these protective measures. Diseased conditions of the mouth and teeth, are almost universal among modern civilized nations.

Examination of 4,259 pupils in the Halifax schools showed 970 with irregularities; 316 mouth breathers; 244 with fractured teeth; 103 with abscesses; 1,000 or more with teeth coated with calculus or tartar. Only 943 had tooth brushes, 423 had lost all of their first permanent molars, the most important tooth in the alveolar arch, 97% per cent. had defective teeth, one way or another.

Out of 1,400 pupils examined in New York City, 74 per cent. suffered from defective teeth, 19 per cent from defective eyes; 47 per cent from diseased glands; 27 per cent. from nasal trouble and 29 per cent. from throat trouble.

In Toronto a careful examination of the teeth of the pupils in the Elizabeth St. School and in the Church St. School shows the following appalling conditions:—

No. of Children Examined	Elizabeth St. 395 P.C.	Church St. 471 P.C.	Total 866 Av. P.C.
Physical condition not good	48	22	35
Mouth breathers	38	17	27
Unable to masticate	51	20	35
Enlarged glands	47	8	27

	Elizabeth St. 365 P.C.	Church St. 471 P.C.	Total 866 Av. P.C.
Mouths not considered clean	90	56	73
No. of defective teeth per child	6½	5½	5½
No. of teeth unnecessarily lost per child	1½	1½	1½
Abscesses	55	20	37½
Pus exuding into mouth	41	16	28
Pain	43	22	33
No. of children needing treatment	99	92½	95

Notice the close relationship between the figures representing the physical condition, lack of mastication, abscesses and pain, their general interdependence and correlation.

Subjoined is a table showing the conditions found among the various races of the globe as far as obtainable.

Country State or Nationality	Examiner	Number Examined	% Defective Teeth
Germany	Odenthal in 1877	987	72
England	Pedley in 1893	3,145	77.5
Prussia	Ass. of Dentists in 1900	19,725	95
Copenhagen	Dr. Ralewski	10,000	97
People's School at Reydt		5,300	96.63
Girls' Gymnasium, Moscow	Dr. Gawrowsky		90.97
Andover, Mass.	Supt Johnson	497	96.9
New York	Ass. of Dentists	14,000	74
New South Wales	Ass. of Dentists	7,648	85
Nova Scotia	Dental Ass.	4,258	97½
Toronto	" "	866	95
Esquimos	Esti mated		2.5
Indians	Esti mated		3-10
Malays	Esti mated		3-20
Chinese	Esti mated		40

The report of the International Dental Congress at Copenhagen in 1895 gives 80—98.5 per cent. as the average number with defective teeth in all civilized countries of the world.

Examinations of the skulls of ancient races show a much more perfect condition of the teeth than what is found among civilized people to-day. The question naturally arises, why this inferiority in tooth tissue among civilized nations in comparison with savage and ancient races. Apparently changed conditions of feeding are largely responsible for this retrograde movement of civilization. Instead of the raw uncooked vegetable and animal diet of uncivilized people requiring a vigorous and prolonged process of mastication we adopt a diet consisting mainly of soft pappy preparations, which require no effort at mastication, but which can be rapidly swallowed en-masse. Lack of use has evidently been the greatest factor in the degeneration of tooth structure and contraction of the jaws.