

been in this department, as in all others, a steady increase in activities ; its history is one of essential work done on behalf of our patients.

In Army work, Dentistry assumes greater relative importance than in Civil life. The efficiency of the soldier is almost as directly impaired by bad teeth as by a wound. In the Army, too, there are large numbers of men who have never been taught the importance of attention to the state of their teeth. They are able to follow the pursuits of civil life, despite their teeth ; but in conditions in which they live on active service, inefficiency quickly develops. Wounds involving teeth and jaws constitute another cause contributing to the special status of war-time Dentistry.

In Egypt, the Dental department was established in a conveniently disposed room in the main Hospital block. The most modern equipment was provided, making the performance of all forms of dental treatment possible. All Hospital patients in need of dental treatment were detained in Hospital until this had been carried out. By this means a valuable adjunct to ordinary medical or surgical treatment was secured. In addition to treatment given to our own patients, there was a daily parade to our Dentist of men from the Bases and other Hospitals in the area. In the latter class of patients were many Officers who had not had an opportunity of securing dental treatment in many months of active service.

All forms of dental work were undertaken, including Extractions, Fillings, Making of Plates, Treatment of Pyrrhœa, and Trench Mouth. In the cases of wounds involving teeth or mouth, the Dental Officer worked in conjunction with the Medical Officers, removing roots, cleaning the mouth generally, and preparing the patient for more permanent Dental work when this could be done. In cases where the jaws were fractured, the fragments were wired or splinted, an essential factor in treatment.

In France, both in our first and our present Hospital, dental treatment has assumed great importance. The fact, however, that many patients requiring dental treatment are detained in Hospital a short time only before being sent to England sets limits to the work that can be done in many cases. But notwithstanding this fact, the amount of treatment required is very great. The soldier on active service is on duty in the trenches or in neighbouring billets for months, in conditions which preclude the possibility of regular care of teeth. As a result, teeth decay, gums become inflamed, and frequently Trench Mouth, a serious and incapacitating condition, develops. This latter condition is one of infection. It frequently follows a sore throat, showing itself first in the form of grey-coloured ulceration along the borders of the gums. Tartar is coincidentally deposited at the neck of the teeth, which finally become distinctly loose. A marked degree of success has been obtained in the treatment of these cases. —

The following is an example of the work done in the Dental department, No. 7 Canadian General Hospital, in one month :

Number of patients treated	..	..	..	450
Total number of Fillings	..	..	..	172
Prophylaxis	..	..	..	52
Root Fillings	..	..	..	29
Extractions	..	..	..	321
Devitalizing	..	..	..	39
Treatments	..	..	..	299
Total number of Operations				912