

justification for its adoption in Australia. That trained women could do the work indicated was undoubted, and he could not see how the method would conduce to unqualified practice. It might be said that such persons could set up as oral hygienists after leaving the department, but that could be readily covered by inserting a condition in their appointment that they would not carry on unqualified practice after leaving the department. As far as he was concerned, however, no oral hygienist would be introduced on his suggestion into the school medical service of New South Wales unless the dental profession agreed upon the advisableness of the step. (Applause.)

Mr. E. S. Callanan, principal dental officer of the Education Department in Melbourne, said the Victorian scheme, with two dental officers and three dental nurses, was to deal at present with the metropolitan schools, where a start was made with children as soon as they were enrolled. It would not be possible for such a limited staff to get over a big number, but they were going to do what they could thoroughly, so that the children would go forward at nine years of age with clean mouths, fully understanding all that was necessary from what they had been taught of oral hygiene and the proper use of the toothbrush. The aim would be to prevent in that way a great deal of the decay of six-year-old molars. Unfortunately, it was found in many children at the age of 7 or 7½ years that the six-year-old molars were beyond conservation.

Mr. E. W. Haenke, Chief Dental Officer in the Queensland Education Department, read a valuable paper embodying conclusions upon the experience of dental inspection in that State. He said his heart was in the work, as what he had seen convinced him that results of national importance were being achieved. (Applause.)

In a paper entitled "A Means for the Prevention of Tooth Decay," Mr. Arthur Gask, L.D.S., of Adelaide, said everywhere the cry was just the same. Wherever boards of health were established, whenever the physical condition of any number of people was reported upon, and whenever statistics were gathered, there was the unvarying report as to the terrible condition of the teeth. Soil, climate, and environment appeared to make no appreciable difference to the extent of the ravages of decay, and he regretted to say that the profession had wholly and utterly failed to provide any remedy for the ever-increasing volume of caries of the teeth. Its progress had not been arrested in the slightest degree. Although the profession knew all about the disease and its causes, they had apparently been unable to formulate a course or rule of life that should be practical and applicable to all classes and conditions of men. It was in very early childhood that the fight against the evil must be begun. It was the lodgment and infection of food that caused decay, and if the former were prevented there would be no decay. By removing the debris of food, by systematic and habitual mouth-rinsing, the evil would not be given a chance to materialise. Children should be taught to rinse round their teeth and gums with the last mouthful of whatever liquid they were taking with their food, thus to remove clinging morsels of food. Once the "clean mouth" habit was acquired, beneficial results would follow. (Applause.)

Dr. Sims Lever, of Sydney, contributed a paper entitled "A plea for the early care of deciduous teeth," in which he said children's teeth between the ages of two years and six years, were not looked after to the extent that they should be.

LADIES ENTERTAINED.

The lady delegates and the wives of the visiting delegates to the Dental Congress were entertained at dinner on Thursday evening by the president of the ladies' executive (Mrs. E. J. Counter) and the members of the executive at the South Australian Hotel. About 50 ladies were present, and a most enjoyable time was spent. The guests included the Lady Mayoress (Lady Hackett), Mrs. Alexander Esq., Mrs. W. Theodore Shanassy, Miss Martha Burns (Queensland), and ladies from all the States.