

really a message Dr. Hornabrook gave to those who have the responsibility of establishing the Adelaide Dental College which, he says, must be modelled on the best, and kept advancing in practice and equipment. As a great specialist on anaesthetics, his remarks on a question often put to him, whether a dentist should be permitted to administer a general anaesthetic for extractions, have an authoritative interest. His reply is that, provided he be a highly qualified man, who has been instructed in a course of general anaesthetics, there is not the slightest reason why that should not be done. Dr. Hornabrook, however, restricts him to the minor anaesthetics, such as nitrous oxide, or nitrous oxide and oxygen, or somnoform and ethyl chloride. The two last-named are almost identical, somnoform being 83 per cent. ethyl chloride. Then, of course, he would not allow the dentist to administer the anaesthetic by himself, but in the presence of a capable assistant. "No man," insists Dr. Hornabrook "whether a medical practitioner, or a qualified dentist, should give a general anaesthetic by himself, unless absolutely driven to it, as, for instance, may sometimes happen in the country. A large amount of dental work is done to-day under regional or local anaesthesia," remarked Dr. Hornabrook. "I think where regional anaesthesia can be used, they are much better, because the dental surgeon has a longer time in which to do his work, there is less blood about, the patient does not feel the after effects, and there is practically no danger. A local anaesthetic, however, must never be administered when there is any pus, or abscess, as it would be easy in those circumstances to set up general infection. As regards major anaesthesia, ether and chloroform, I certainly think those are better left in the hands of medical men, must draw the line somewhere."

-A Wonderful Record.-

Dr. Hornabrook was asked to describe some of the work done at the Melbourne Dental Hospital. It was the establishment of the college in that city which was practically the starting point in the rapid advance of the profession so far as Australia is concerned. It was then the Commonwealth began to educate its own men, instead of having to send them abroad, chiefly to America, to qualify in the higher branches. The Melbourne institution has had a wonderful record—probably it may be written as unique. Dr. Hornabrook stated that during the past 15 years there has been administered in that hospital no fewer than 37,000 general anaesthetics. Of that number, about 35,000 of the operations have been conducted under somnoform, or ethyl chloride, or a combination of the two. Eighty per cent. of the anaesthetics have been administered by dental students, under supervision, of course, and there has never been a fatality.

"In the history of the world over," said Dr. Hornabrook, "there is nothing to touch the Melbourne Hospital in that record. It shows that, with proper tuition, dentists can administer these anaesthetics, and all of them were given in an upright position. The whole of our students are taught to give the minimum amount necessary to attain a surgical anaesthesia. In other words, the idea is to give only sufficient so that the patient is practically coming out when the work is just about finished. It must always be remembered that an anaesthetic is not a tonic. It is a tissue poison. Only exactly what is required should be administered. The ideal result, even in a major operation, is for the patient to come around in time to feel the last stitch. In these circumstances, you do not get the post-operative vomiting. With a minor anaesthetic, a patient should be able to walk out of the surgery five minutes after its administration."

-Close Scientific Training.-

"What do you accomplish at the Melbourne Hospital in that direction?"

"We operate at the rate of about 15 cases in two hours, equal to about eight an hour. That covers preparation, an examination of the teeth, giving the anaesthetic, and performing the actual operation. It means that, in eight minutes, the patient is out of the chair, and the next one is waiting. With an expert operator, and a good anaesthetist, you should be able, by using a minor anaesthetic, to clear out all the upper or lower teeth with one administration. Of course, occasionally you may get a snag, necessitating a second operation. With two first-class men, two and a half minutes ought to finish the job. In one room of the Melbourne Hospital there are 40 dental chairs, and in another nearly 30. Sometimes every chair is occupied. There is no doubt that dentistry has got to be a fine science, requiring really great qualifications. It is a special branch of surgery, requiring four years' close scientific training. If the standard to be reached in Adelaide attains to that of Melbourne, then it will be very high indeed. It ought to be high, and if the course be modelled on that of Melbourne, a splendid start will be made at your college."

-Great Promise.-

Dr. Hornabrook was asked what he thought of Australian teeth. He replied that those of the children were "very bad," and the defects might be due largely to the enormous amount of meat eaten. Apart from that, the Australian people did not take as much care of their teeth as they should do. Dr. Hornabrook said dentists of to-day were performing marvellous curative work, and their object was to save the natural teeth, not to pull them out. Mouths were being straightened out by surgical skill, and things were being done as the result of admirable and comprehensive training, which only a comparatively few years ago were thought impossible. The profession had already witnessed marked advance. It was now a progressive science. The future of dentistry in Australia was full of the greatest promise!

RECEPTION AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

A reception was given at Government House on Thursday afternoon to the members of the Dental Congress and their wives. The guests were received by His Excellency the Governor and Lady Weigall, and then passed on to the ballroom, where afternoon tea was served. Selections were played by Mr. Fewster's orchestra during the afternoon, and photographs of the visitors were taken on the lawn.

THE DENTAL CONGRESS DINNER TO THE DELEGATES ADDRESS BY THE GOVERNOR

Great enthusiasm and harmony among those present marked the proceedings at a dinner in connection with the fourth Australian Dental Congress at the Grosvenor, North-terrace, on Thursday evening. The president (Dr. E. J. Counter) occupied the chair, and had on his right hand his Excellency the Governor. Among others supporting the president were Sir Langdon Bonython, Sir Joseph Verco (dean of the Faculty of Dentistry at the University), the Lord Mayor of Adelaide (Mr. F. B. Moulden), the president-elect of the next congress (Dr. W. H. Weston, of Sydney), the chairman of the Central Board of Health (Dr. W. Ramsay Smith), and the president of the State Dental Board (Councillor Wallace Bruce). There was a large attendance of congress delegates and members of the dental profession. Greetings were received from prominent men connected with the dental organisations in the other States.

The chairman, in proposing the health of his Excellency, said he had been a wonderful friend to the congress. That afternoon at Government House his Excellency and Lady Weigall had entertained them with a cordiality they would always remember. (Cheers.) Sir Archibald since his arrival to take up viceregal office in South Australia had identified himself with all that was best in their national life, and had undoubtedly shown himself to be the right man in the right place. (Cheers.) In honoring the toast he asked them to couple with it the name of Lady Weigall. (Cheers.)

The sentiment was enthusiastically received, and accorded musical honors.

A Cheery Profession.

His Excellency was given an ovation on rising to respond. He said:—I now have the privilege of seeing you on the third occasion collectively, but my trepidation has gone, and if I may say so it has been dispelled by your cheeriness and cordiality. However depressing to your patients your distinguished profession may be, it does not seem to have dulled your spirits. (Cheers.) I am not so vain or so foolish as to imagine that the kindly welcome you have given me to-night is given to me as an individual. (Voices.—"It is.") What you desire is, through the medium of the office it is my privilege to hold, to express your love for and loyalty to the cementing influence of the foundation of the strongest structure the world has ever known—the British Commonwealth of Nations. (Cheers.) I wonder how much you really appreciate what that family means to the world to-day. In the last few years you have seen monarchies tumbled down wholesale, but ours has emerged from that upheaval

stronger and more secure among the people who really matter—the British people—than ever before. During the last few months a conference has been sitting in the clubhouse of the family, at Downing-street. That gathering has shown above all else that the inter-dependence of the units of the family is so strong that no one unit can suffer failure or prosperity without it reacting on the whole family. It is the British way in business to place absolute reliance on a subordinate who is in charge of a branch, and to let him "run his show" as and how he will, and not to "butt in" if things are going all right. But if things go wrong and affect the business as a whole, then is the time to tell the crowd to "come on." What happened in the war? The manager of the club did not say. "Come and help me, but the members of the club said, "Look here, they are going to get at our clubhouse! Come on!" (Cheers.) That is why I said it is the strongest structure in the world for good. Mankind to-day looks to the British Commonwealth of Nations to restore the shattered world, and on us as a people is placed that grave responsibility. I am privileged to be simply a human connecting link between the clubhouse and one of its members—between the greatest monarchy the world has ever known and one of the brightest jewels in the crown of that monarchy. At this juncture in the history of this bright jewel of the crown the obligation and responsibility on those who belong to what I may call the learned professions in Australia is very grave. The professional man and the business man in this beautiful young country are not taking a big enough hand in the moulding and legislative activities. (Hear, hear.)

Moulding the Future.

I am not going deeply into this question, for obvious reasons. All I want to say is that if it is true of the old country, as I believe it is, how much truer it is of a young country, that if you are going to develop along lines of progress and prosperity, those who are going to mould your future should be a true mirror of the life, the aims, the aspirations, and the feeling of the country. (Cheers.) There are the leaders of its material side and of its ideals—your commerce and your learned professions. Can they afford to stand aloof and not be part and parcel of the true mirror of the life of the country, taking an active part in the moulding of its legislative future? I know the difficulties, and I am not going to analyse or go deeper into them. All I say is, there never was a time in the history of Australia when it so wanted cool, calm courage, and the devotion and assistance of those who by their brains and educational attributes are able to give real help and real advice. (Cheers.) Think this over, and see if there is an equally active, if not so remunerative a field for your energies and your enterprise. But whether you do or whether you do not, allow me, in conclusion, to thank you most heartily for the extremely kind way in which you have received me to-night, and allow me to wish you, both collectively and individually, all the prosperity that I know you deserve. (Cheers.)

Dental Organisations.

Sir Joseph Verco, in proposing "The National Dental Association of Australia," said he was interested to hear his Excellency express the dread he felt in standing before dentists. What would he have felt, however, if he had had to stand before them in the twelfth century, when the dentists, especially those who were ethical, used to wear round their necks all the teeth they had ever drawn, beautifully strung? (Laughter.) He expressed thanks to the inter-State visitors, and especially Mr. Donald Smith, of Sydney, and Mr. W. J. Tuckfield, of Melbourne, for the assistance and advice they had given him in relation to the proposed Dental Hospital in Adelaide. Those gentlemen had placed him under a great obligation by giving, both in private interviews and by correspondence, much information, without which he would have been in the dark. He desired to congratulate the dentists of the Commonwealth on the existence of the National Dental Association. Every dentist who could possibly be induced to do so should join the association, get others to join it, and, having joined, do everything he could to prevent anything like a split in it. (Cheers.) While they tried to maintain their national council and keep it one for all the States, they should also try to keep an ideal before them that was better still, and that was to get one association only. (Cheers.) He understood that in the different States they had different associations, and that in the same State they had different organisations. That was probably something that weakened. The number of dentists, he believed, was fewer than the number of medical men, yet they found that one branch of the British Medical Association was sufficient in every State, and it would be a mistake for them to split up into more than one. Surely, with a smaller percentage of dental practitioners, it would

be wiser if it were possible to keep that ideal before the profession, and endeavor to bring the different societies and associations in each State into one. (Cheers.) Mr. W. J. Tuckfield (Victoria), in replying, thanked Sir Joseph Verco for the kindly advice he had given them regarding the unity of the profession. The National Dental Association was a strong body, and could carry on under a very good constitution until the time was ripe for the closer union he advocated. (Cheers.)

Dr. Campbell Wilson (Western Australia) said there was no possibility at the present time of having opposition in their State by any other association, as they were small in numbers, and found it difficult enough to maintain one organisation.

Mr. W. E. Parker (Queensland) said in that State they had only one society, and dentists hundreds of miles apart in various parts of the country were members of it.

Mr. Tuckfield, on behalf of the inter-State delegates, presented to Mr. Alexander Swann, hon. secretary of the congress,

a valuable tea and coffee service and gold-mounted fountain pen as tokens in appreciation of all that he had done in their interests. Mr. Swann was loudly applauded as he came forward to receive the gifts.

Dr. Ramsay Smith proposed "The visitors," and responses were given by Mr. W. R. Fitzsimmons (N.S.W.), Dr. J. H. Lewis (Vic.), Mr. R. Sharp (Tas.), and Mr. J. D. Mitchell (N.Z.).

The health of the president-elect was honored at the instance of Mr. A. W. Cleary, and that of Dr. Counter at the proposal of Mr. Ernest Joske. An enjoyable musical programme was contributed by Messrs. W. Wood, R. Jones, F. Charlton, A. Vardon, and W. G. Hurst.

CHILDREN'S TEETH.

THE INROADS OF DECAY.

The most interesting subject so far discussed at the Dental Congress from the standpoint of the public was that of the care which should be bestowed upon the teeth of the rising generation in Australia. Several interesting papers were contributed at Thursday morning's session. Dr. F. G. Butler Wood, of Brisbane, presided over a representative gathering.

Dr. Harvey Sutton, O.B.E., principal medical officer of the New South Wales Education Department, in speaking upon "Preventive Dental Medicine in Schools," said they had only at best made a beginning in tackling an enormous health problem. In South Australia scarcely even a beginning had been made. No mechanism but the State could deal with the problem of the prevention of dental disease, because of its size, distribution, and cost. The value of preventive dental treatment was so great that it would repay the State hundreds of times to undertake it systematically. Yet in South Australia, one of the soundest of States financially, they found nothing at all spent in this direction. The contrast between the hundreds of thousands of pounds to be saved by the promotion of dental sanitation among the rising generation, thus gradually raising the general condition of health in the community, and the comparatively few hundreds of pounds required to be spent in saving these hundreds of thousands, showed that the outlay asked for to provide dental treatment among school children was the strictest economy. Any Government begrudging the outlay would be open to the censure of being penny wise and pound foolish. The chief hope for the future was in educational propaganda, as the children of to-day were the citizens of to-morrow. They would grow up appreciating the value of conservative dentistry, and would in years to come instil the same ideals and practices of oral hygiene into their own children. At the present time, however, more must be done if Australia was to overtake and beat back the inroads made by dental disease. The wholehearted co-operation and sympathy of the dental profession were necessary, but he thought that no scheme worked entirely by practitioners was likely to be adopted. When they considered the need for dental attention actually existent in the population, they found a grave disproportion between the number of dentists available and the amount of disease to be eradicated, and as far as school children were concerned no arrangement with private dentists, or even by State dentists, could cope with the vast numbers. For a scheme of preventive dental treatment the employment of oral hygienists or nurses specially trained to give simple attention to the teeth of the children, teach them the simple toilet of the mouth, and pass them on wherever necessary to the dentist, had been highly recommended by prominent American authorities. The fact that a system of dental nurses was having beneficial results in New Zealand, would seem to be sufficient