

ing its great resources, which was essential to a young nation making history.

Care of Children's Teeth.

One of the greatest needs at the present time was the proper care of the teeth of school children. Only when the lessons of diseases, physical and mental, associated with defective teeth was borne in mind could they realise the appalling significance of the fact that over 90 per cent. of the school children of the leading nations of the world suffered from decayed teeth. This dreadful state of affairs was not going to be remedied by reparative treatment only, which in itself was most essential for the health and development of the children of the nation. To endeavor to wipe out the frightful scourge by that means alone would not bring the desired result. They must go to the root of the disease, and must preach and teach "prevention" first, rather than "restoration." That could only be accomplished by the education of the child through the parent and the school, and the remedy could not be left altogether to individual initiative. The health of the people was a matter concerning not only the individual, but the State, and it was gratifying, therefore, to observe that all the Governments of the Commonwealth were realising, though slowly, the imperative necessity of caring for the teeth of school children. (Applause.) Much had been done in South Australia, as in other States, in the way of bringing these organs under skilled inspection, but mere inspection was not always enough, and the State must where necessary secure by larger staffs of dental officers the treatment which in necessary cases the sufferers could not provide for themselves, and allowing that a heavier expenditure would be entailed, the cost would be saved many times over by the reduction in the number of patients treated in the public hospitals for diseases arising from bad teeth. New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, and Tasmania had all well-established dental clinics, both for the city and country schools, and the statistics indicated how magnificent was the work accomplished by them. South Australia was on the road to establishing a travelling clinic, which must be productive of great good. (Applause.)

War Service.

The congress was of exceptional interest as being the first since the war threw a flood of light on the shocking condition of the mouths of the Australian people. The need of organising a dental department to attend to the requirements of the soldiers at the different training camps was speedily recognised, and to the credit of the Australian profession, the teeth of the

Australian soldiers were so well attended to as to be the envy of the men of the Allied nations. Not improbably to their dental equipment did the world owe the magnificent service rendered to it by those brave fellows. The number of dental units operating with the A.I.F. abroad was 108, each consisting of one dental officer and three other ranks. Judging from officers' diaries, the work that was accomplished under crude conditions and in places not far removed from the range of the enemy was truly wonderful, and indicated an originality and adaptability of which the profession was proud. For the 12 months to the end of June, 1917, 22,322 men were treated who otherwise would have been unfit for active service. During that period in Australia there were 55,497 fillings, 127,280 extractions, 26,475 artificial dentures supplied, 3,303 repairs, 30,485 treatments, while no fewer than 183,087 artificial teeth were used. The persistent exposure of the head in trench warfare—the rest of the body being more or less protected—accounted for an enormous percentage of injuries to the face and jaws, for the treatment of which the services of dental surgeons were repeatedly invoked, and through the cordial co-operation of the medical and dental professions, wonderful results were achieved in plastic surgery of the face and mouth. The adapting of various forms of splints and dentures in replacing lost tissue was the means whereby many brave men were able to masticate their food in a manner otherwise impossible. (Applause.)

Focal Infection.

During recent years the pathological condition, known as focal infection, had excited much discussion. Many diseases that were killing the hospitals of the world had been diagnosed by medical authorities as due to insufficient care in the treatment of pulpless teeth by a large number of dentists practising the world over, together with the neglect of peoples of the civilized races in allowing their teeth to be destroyed by decay. In every institution for educating dental students the treatment of these "pulpless teeth" was thoroughly taught, so that every graduate should be possessed of the knowledge and skill required in dealing with that branch of dentistry, so as to reduce the chance of infection to a minimum. Unfortunately the public were too often treated by men who had not the legal right to practise

upon them, and also by men who had not the ability to cope with this important phase of dental surgery. Hence the source of a great deal of the "focal infection" discovered in patients by the aid of X-rays. The pathological condition, "focal infection," had caused a panic-stricken rush for

the extraction of vast numbers of pulpless teeth, which could have been made serviceable. Teeth, merely because they had their pulps devitalised, should not be extracted without very good reason. Fortunately the pendulum was swinging back again, and safer methods were being employed. Australia had not had the panic experience noticeable in other countries. The treatment of roots in devitalised teeth was essential to sound dental surgery, for without it their effort was largely useless, and the best was not done for the patient.

Novocain.

In recent years there had been a most important development in local anaesthesia in dental surgery. He referred to Novocain, which had almost displaced cocaine in hyperdermic work. With the use of this drug, which was much safer than cocaine, they were avoiding the bad results so frequent from injections of cocaine. In recent years efforts have been made in connection with the National Dental Association of Australia to bring the ethical dental societies under a constitution similar to that of the British Medical Association, but unfortunately these efforts had so far proved abortive. He hoped that before the fifth dental congress took place they would have all the dental societies united in one strong professional body, working for one end only, the uplifting of dental science. (Applause.) Only in that way would the nation secure the best that the profession could give. It would be necessary for a great deal of the spirit of give and take to be employed, the personal animosities frequently displayed in dental society life must be sunk, and a united effort made to close up the ranks of the profession for the good of the calling as a whole.

Dental Education.

Since the congress of 1912 dental education in Australia had made rapid advancement in many directions, and Governments and Parliaments were recognising their duty to see that the manipulation of so important a part of the human body as the jaws did not come under unskilled hands. This awakening was not confined to the Dominions, for at the present time a Bill was passing through the British Parliament to deliver the people from the evils of dental quackery. It was not enough, however, to forbid practice by unqualified men if facilities were not provided for the training of future dental surgeons. This need was now more than ever recognised. New South Wales had a fine curriculum established, and Victoria had recently granted to its dentists higher degrees. South Australia had just provided itself with a curriculum in connection with the University and the Adelaide Hospital. The old military dental department at Frome-road had been taken over, and a temporary hospital had been established pending the completion of the new department of the Adelaide Hospital. This hospital when built would be second to none in Australia. (Applause.) The realisation of a long-felt need in their midst had been made possible by the magnificent gift to Australia from the British Red Cross Society of about £150,000. The late Governor-General of Australia placed at the disposal of this State £15,000 to build and equip a dental hospital, and the amount was added to by the South Australian Government. The future dental surgeons of the State would have a dental hospital, equipped with all modern appliances for perfecting their study in dental science, and a curriculum at the Adelaide University, which would give the dental graduate a license to practise in any part of the British Empire. The degree of the bachelor of dental science of the Adelaide University would ensure anyone taking the course a thorough education—of that there could be no doubt. (Applause.) To his Excellency and Lady Weigall, both in connection with the official opening and social events during the week at Government House, he had to express the thanks of the dental profession of Australia. To the Government of South Australia they felt deeply grateful for their services in connection with the transactions of the congress. To the Chancellor and Council of the University the profession extended thanks for the part they were taking in promoting the success of the gathering. To the Lord and Lady Mayoress they owed much for what they were doing in the same direction. To Sir John Verco, Dean of the Dental Faculty of the University, South Australia especially, and the whole profession of Australia, owed a deep debt of gratitude for his magnificent effort in connection with the securing of a dental hospital for the State. Had it not been for his great executive work and organising

facility they would not have had a degree established at the University and a dental department in connection with the hospital. To the President and Council of the School of Mines and Industries for great generosity in placing at their disposal that magnificent building, admirably suited for the holding of such a gathering, he expressed their deepest thanks and appreciation on behalf of the executive and the profession. He also wished publicly to place on record the executive's and his own appreciation of the invaluable service rendered to dentistry by the general secretary (Mr. Alexander Swann). (Applause.)

A CIVIC RECEPTION.

A civic reception was accorded the delegates by the Lord Mayor of Adelaide (Mr. F. B. Moulden), in the council chamber, Adelaide Town Hall, at noon on Monday. The Lady Mayoress (Lady Hackett) and several members of the City Council were also present. In welcoming the visitors, the Lord Mayor said it was a good thing that Adelaide had been selected for the holding of such an important gathering. It was a city in which the dental profession was held in the highest regard. (Applause.) In teeth everyone was interested. He thought it was well for the human race that no attempt was made to tell people's ages by looking at their teeth, as was done in the case of animals. So many young people were possessed of full sets that it would be rather a difficult problem. (Laughter.) It was also true that they told the age of birds by their teeth, but in that case it was one's own teeth, and not the teeth of the bird. (Laughter.) There was every promise that the congress would be successful both from the professional and social standpoint. Adelaide extended to the delegates the cordial greeting which it offered to all visitors from the other States. He did not think the dental profession got all the credit that should have been given to it for the work it did during the war. (Applause.) There was no doubt that the excellent work then done went a long way towards keeping the troops in good health. It was gratifying that the need for looking after the teeth of children had become a live question in the schools. The matter was one of great importance, as a start in life with sound teeth was a factor contributing to health and efficiency in after years, and would also do much in the promotion of longevity. An examination among children in the northern rural areas, who lived more in the open and ate more home cooking than did those in the metropolitan area, showed that their teeth were in far better condition than were those of the city children, and that was a very significant fact. He wished them the greatest possible success and happiness. (Applause.)

The welcome was supported by Aldermen Entwistle and Cohen, and Councillor Wallace Bruce (chairman of the South Australian Dental Board).

Dr. E. J. Counter (president of the congress), on behalf of the profession in South Australia, thanked the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress for their hospitality, and the desire that they had expressed to do anything in their power to assist in the success of the congress. Although Adelaide was not so big as some other places, he assured the visitors it was a city well able "to hand out the goods." (Applause.)

Dr. G. H. McElhone (N.S.W.) in a happy response, complimented the Lord Mayor and his colleagues upon the condition of the streets and the cleanliness of the city. It was his second visit, and on every occasion the civic amenities of Adelaide had been an eye-opener to him. Sydney might well follow Adelaide's example in a number of respects, but he hoped they in Adelaide would never allow the political element to enter into the administration of the city. If they did they would have a condition of chaos such as existed in Sydney, where they had a Lord Mayor who posed as a Socialist, and yet was one of the most pronounced autocrats that had had anything to do with civic affairs. The civic management in Adelaide was a credit to all concerned in it. (Applause.)

Others who responded were Dr. Donald Smith (New South Wales Government delegate), Mr. W. J. Tuckfield (Victoria), Mr. W. R. Parker (Queensland), Dr. Campbell Wilson (Western Australia), Mr. R. C. Sharp (Tasmania), and Mr. J. D. Mitchell (Invercargill, New Zealand). It was stated that the profession in South Australia had been striving for many years to strengthen the best interests of dentistry, and the effort had been brought to fruition by the establishment of a course at the University and the decision to build a magnificent dental hospital.

THE EVENING SESSION.

For the evening session, over which Mr. C. O. Tebbutt (W.A.) presided, the business was in the section of etiology, pathology, and bacteriology, and the papers read were:—"Pyrrhoea alveolaris, with special reference to its pathology," contributed by Dr. J. M. Lewis, Melbourne; "Oral foci of infection in their relation to chronic general infections," by Dr. R. M. Stawell, Sydney; "Diseases of the periodontal membrane, with special reference to the periodontal abscess," by Dr. G. H. McElhone, Sydney; "The relation of chronic rheumatism to dental diseases," by Dr. H. Rutherford Darling, Sydney; and "The one big cause of pyrrhoea alveolaris," by Mr. Morse Withycombe, Sydney. The papers were illustrated in most instances by lantern slides, and discussion followed.

There was an interesting display of dental requisites and appliances by manufacturing and importing firms. Messrs. Faulding & Co., of Adelaide, had a comprehensive collection, including the well-known Solyptol soap and antiseptic, and the local anaesthetic, Isotone, of Australian manufacture. A feature of the display, of which Mr. W. A. Wickham was in charge, was a new apparatus for the administration of nitrous oxide and oxygen combined, constituting what is claimed to be the safest general anaesthetic used in dental or surgical operations. Other firms represented were the Commonwealth Dental Supply Co. (in conjunction with Messrs. A. M. Bickford & Sons, Adelaide), the Dental Manufacturing Company (London and Sydney), Woods, Gibling, Ltd. (Sydney), Hospital Electric and Radium, Ltd. (in conjunction with Messrs. Watson and Sons), the Australian Drug Co. (Sydney), the Antidolor Manufacturing Co. (New York), the S. S. White Dental Manufacturing Co. (Philadelphia), and (Laudius) Ash, Sons, & Co. (London and Sydney). The Congress will be continued to-day.

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THE DENTAL CONGRESS.

Clinical Demonstrations.

On Tuesday morning the practical part of the work of the profession occupied the attention of the delegates attending the Dental Congress. Several rooms in the School of Mines Buildings had been prepared for the purpose, and clinical demonstrations were given as follows:—Ether and chloroform administration, with patient in the upright position (Dr. Rupert Hornbrook); root canal treatment (Dr. W. H. Weston); large restoration (central incisor), in amalgam and gold (Dr. Sims Lever); somnoform and ethyl chloride administration (Mr. F. A. Aird); crown and bridgework (Dr. Maxwell S. Allen); use of inlays and crowns in restoration of upper first bicuspids (Dr. E. F. Deck); radiography (Dr. J. Kenneth Clark); preparation of models for casting plates (Mr. H. L. Hollander); clinic (Mr. R. Morse Withycombe).

A UNIVERSITY RECEPTION.

REFERENCE TO DENTAL SCHOOL.

At noon all the delegates and their wives were present at a reception given by the Chancellor and the Council of the Adelaide University in the Elder Hall. Owing to the unavoidable absence of the Chancellor (Sir George Murray) the guests were received by the Vice-Chancellor (Professor Mitchell) and Sir Joseph Verco (Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry). The President and Vice-Presidents of the congress and members of the University Council occupied seats on the platform, and the chair was taken by the Vice-Chancellor.

Professor Mitchell, in bidding welcome to the members of the congress, said that the University Council took little credit for the creation of the dental school, for it had done the work merely in the course of its duty. The State had wisely decided to educate and train its own professional men in every walk of life, and it became the council's duty to see that the students had as good teachers and the same advantages for study as if they went abroad. That was an ambitious undertaking, but it was what was being aimed at. It must be seen that the State must be provided with sound education in law, engineering, medicine, surgery, and dentistry—(hear, hear)—and why not sound teeth? (laughter.) The council was not the governing point of the University; it was the coordinating and directive centre. The growing points were the seven faculties which had charge of the professional training and