

DENTAL



OBSERVER

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\$1 A YEAR

Public Health Keynote Philadelphia Meet Convenes This Week

Excellent Program
Arranged for Visiting
Dentists & Assistants

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. — The Philadelphia County Dental Society is going

Bad Teeth Make Child Selfconscious, Jensen; Few Use Toothbrushes

DENVER, Col. — Success in life depends much on good teeth and the parent who is watchful of his child's teeth will be rewarded in later life. Imperfect, protruding and crooked teeth usually make a child self-conscious, said Dr. Arthur L. Jensen of Berkeley, Cal., in his lecture on "Evaluation of Dental Health" before the annual Midwinter convention of

Army Assistants Wanted

Dental Observer Bureau

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Expansion of the 12 Army medical corps has caused a shortage of dental assistants, and numerous vacancies will be filled before Spring, according to an announcement here. Although no previous experience is necessary, men with such training are given preferred positions, it was said. Full details and enlistment papers can be obtained from recruiting stations

University to Promote Research in Children's Dentistry, Prevention

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — Research work in the field of children's dentistry and prevention of dental ailments will be promoted at the Indiana University school of dentistry through the use of funds from the United States public health service, Dr. William H. Crawford, new dean of the school, said at a dinner in the Indianapolis Athletic Club last week.

Psychology Missed in Search for Caries Cause Claims Kraskin

Cites Cause to Prove
Psychotherapist, Dentist
Should Cooperate

Dental Observer Bureau

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WASHINGTON, D. C.—The psychology of the patient has been completely overlooked by dentists searching for the cause of caries, Dr. Lewis H. Kraskin, president of the District of Columbia Board of Optometry and a distinguished psychologist, told the members of the Southern Maryland Dental Society at their annual banquet.

In an address that drew lengthy applause from the dentists, Dr. Kraskin declared many cases of dental decay are caused by upset emotions and unhealthy mental attitudes.

Dr. Kraskin admitted the theory is not applicable in every case, but on the basis of estimates that as high as 40 percent of those who visit doctors to be cured of disease are actually suffering only from mental disturbances, he said "it is clear there is need for greater cooperation between the psychotherapist and the dentist."

"The location of pain, the particular organ that is assumed to be disfunctioning, should be studied not as individual separate entity but as related to the totality of the person," he stated. "It is of great significance for the doctor to eliminate fear and instill faith."

Cites Case History

Dr. Kraskin offered a case history to prove his point that mental upsets lead to physical disability. It concerned a married woman, aged 32, of foreign descent and typical peasant mentality.

After suffering from excessive bleeding of the gums and loosening teeth, she was advised to undergo a surgical pyorrhea operation.

The immediate results were favorable, but by this time the patient had become tooth conscious and was alarmed to hear an acquaintance who had undergone a similar operation predict she would be sorry for letting her gums be cut, Dr. Kraskin said.

The woman fretted for fear she would lose her teeth, and unconsciously began to grind them day and night. Symptoms appeared and her dentist warned she would lose her

(Continued on page 2)

teeth if she did not break the habit. Invoking a psychological analysis, he learned of her obsession and her belief that pressing her teeth into the gums would cause them to remain in place. She admitted many terror dreams centering on the loss of her teeth.

Further investigation disclosed she was unhappily married. She had a 12-year-old daughter but did not love her husband or have any common interests with him. She enjoyed no social life, had no interests outside of her housework, and had plenty of time to think about her disability.

Her dentist called in a psychotherapist, Dr. Kraskin related, who helped her avoid emotional disturbances, develop hobbies, and new interests in life. Shortly after the beginning of this treatment, she lost the desire to grind her teeth and her dental trouble has since been eliminated, Dr. Kraskin said.

"Many people grind their teeth, thus producing pyorrhea automatically," he added. "This, I believe is the important factor in the etiology of a very serious problem confronting the dental profession today."

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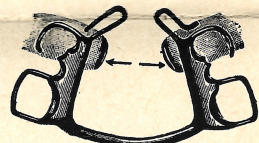
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