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# My First Experience at the Meeting of the N.D.A.

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at work will determine very largely our place in the field of public health. The public must be informed of the necessity of "mouth cleanliness" as a combative force against infections of many kinds.

Dental clinics are needed urgently, especially for school children, since the first years of school life are crucial periods for preserving the teeth. Knowledge of how to preserve and care for the teeth, which could be readily disseminated by such agencies, is invaluable at this period. Those who have studied the problem most judiciously and seriously conclude that civilized nations are afflicted with no diseases more prevalent or farreaching than those of dental origin.

We, the dental hygienists, take up the fight, prepared by training, encouraged by an enlightened attitude on the part of the public, and confident that persistent effort on our part will ameliorate conditions and materialize our lofty ideals of "a clean mouth for every person."

### MY FIRST EXPERIENCE AT THE NATIONAL DENTAL ASSOCIATION MEETING

### By Westanna O. I. Byrom, D.D.S., '33 Cleveland, Tennessee

**I** T WAS my very pleasant privilege to attend the meeting of the National Dental Association which was held in Nashville, Tennessee, July 9 to 13, 1934. It was indeed interesting, inspiring and largely attended.

On arriving in Nashville all delegates, visitors and guests were received and extended the most cordial welcome by the members of the reception and housing committees, under the most efficient directions of the chairman, Dr. W. B. Reed of Nashville. The halls of Fisk University proved most comfortable and convenient living quarters for the majority of those in attendance. The doors of the Tennessee State College were open to us on several occasions.

Meharry Medical College has a wonderful plant. The buildings are magnificent and strictly modern in every detail. It was indeed an excellent place for the meeting of the N. D. A.

The program included registration, manufacturers' exhibits, public meetings, clinics and papers on the various branches of Dentistry by members and guests. A paper, "Dentistry During Pregnancy," containing a wealth of information, was brought to us by E. F. Alleyne, M.D., head of the Department of Obstetrics at Meharry. Geo. F. Seeman, D.D.S., Nashville, specialist in Oral Surgery and Exodontia, gave

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a most interesting lecture on "Gas Anesthesia and Exodontia" which was illustrated by radiographic reproductions. As mine is to be a brief account I shall not be able to mention all those who held clinics and read papers. However, I cannot refrain from making mention of "our own," whose clinics and papers were received so cordially. Each gave the following contributions in his respective field: "Dental Jurisprudence," Jackson L. Davis, A.B., L.L.B., D.D.S., "Illustrated Table Clinic on Perodontia," C. T. Ferebee, B.S., D.D.S., and "Sectional Impressions for Partial Denture Construction," Adolphus Walton, D.D.S.

As the weather was intensely warm we gladly welcomed the various forms of entertainment which were so beautifully carried out without loss of time from the regular meetings and clinics. The Ladies' Auxiliary, composed of the wives of the local Dentists, and, under the competent leadership of their chairlady Mrs. D. H. Turpin, deserves much praise for its untiring efforts in promoting diversion for both sexes. The convention adjourned with the annual prom in the beautiful new Administration Building of Tennessee State College. Lovely prizes and souvenirs were awarded.

The N. D. A. is an organization that should claim the attention of every Negro Dentist. Aside from its strictly scientific importance it would be an ideal occasion for class reunions, where pleasant associations might be revived. With this thought in mind I shall hope to see my classmates in Louisville, Kentucky in August, 1935.

### CORRECTION

We wish to correct an error which appeared in the initial issue of the DENTOSCOPE. (See page 18 in the "Tabulation of Officers of the Dental College, 1881-1934.") We should like to state that Dr. Emmett Jay Scott served as Secretary-Treasurer until December 30, 1932. Dr. Scott assumed the office of Secretary on January 1, 1933, while, on the same date, Mr. V. D. Johnston became Treasurer of the University. We are sorry this error occurred.

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