

4-1935

Class Talk

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dh.howard.edu/dentoscope>

Recommended Citation

(1935) "Class Talk," *The Dentoscope*: Vol. 14: Iss. 11, Article 9.
Available at: <https://dh.howard.edu/dentoscope/vol14/iss11/9>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Howard @ Howard University. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Dentoscope by an authorized editor of Digital Howard @ Howard University. For more information, please contact digitalservices@howard.edu.

CLASS TALK

WOMEN IN DENTISTRY CLASS OF '35

By Ferris C. Warren

IN SPITE of the fact that most of the professions are open to women, the feminine dentist is faced with a certain degree of difficulty in accomplishing the ends which she anticipates. She is still regarded with skepticism in a field to which she is a newcomer, and is overwhelmingly outnumbered by the male. To the layman, dentistry is still "beyond the pale" of female accomplishments.

It is true that woman has been placed at some disadvantage by her traditional background and the social customs which established her so-called place in human relationships. However, the advent of feminism and the growing quest of independence by women are doing much to launch us in new and service producing ventures.

The educational system has neglected, to a great extent, any mechanical training for woman. This handicap, however, can be surmounted by patience, persistence in effort and general attention to one's objectives until dexterity of a manual type and facility in handling patients are developed. Contrary to the consensus of opinion, a normal, healthy young woman possesses the physical ability necessary to the practice of dentistry. The gentle touch which is characteristic of a woman is an asset in dealing with small and adolescent patients where so much patience, kindness and sympathy are necessary. The contrast between male and female professional services has been brought out so forcefully to patients, in my experience, that it is gratifying to hear the comments made after a change in operators.

It is a common belief, among the laity, that excessive strength is the necessary factor in extracting a tooth. For this reason many patients, particularly women, are prejudiced against having this operation performed by one of their own sex. Extractions are operations of skill which are based upon a knowledge of the anatomy of the parts, and not upon strength. In the field of Prosthetic Dentistry the artistic qualities possessed by a woman reach their expression in the neatness and fineness of the finished product.

Dentistry is a great contributing factor in public health service and, as such, should appeal to women. Female dentists are peculiarly efficient

in discussing the problems of pre- and post-natal care, diet and child hygiene with future mothers of a community. Care of the mouth and teeth during pregnancy, and in the first years of life, are tremendously important and may be handled tactfully by a female dentist. No greater service can be rendered a community than that of the preservation of health and the promotion of happiness. In this capacity women may find a pleasant and gratifying way of winning their careers, and, of obtaining the respect and esteem of the communities in which they live.

A JUNIOR'S OBSERVATIONS ON PERSONALITY IN PATIENT-OPERATOR RELATIONSHIPS

By James Byrd, '36

MAN is the most complex and perplexing of all animal species. No two individuals are alike. The closest approach to likeness is found in identical twins, yet, even these are distinguishable, if only by a difference in personality.

The study of dentistry is relatively long and is embroidered with difficulties involving mastery of various technical details. It must not be overlooked, however, that even granting technical perfection, we still must know something of our subjects who furnish us with material upon which to work. A dentist does not go far who has not developed a pleasing personality and who does not understand his patient's mental responses to him and to his projected work. Personality is defined as "that which constitutes a distinction of person. Individuality." Therefore, it is a plastic and pliable thing, which, in introspection, is possible of moulding into certain channels which will benefit the individual and the group.

The dentist, in order to be successful, should be able to adapt himself to his patient, keeping mastery of the situation yet understanding the patient's reactions and shaping his method of approach to be in keeping with the patient's attitude. The most illuminating example of adaptation of personality occurs in the handling of children. The average child patient is usually antagonistic to the dentist because of exposure at home to tales of horror by adults concerning their dental experiences. This is augmented by that primitive emotion—fear. The child, however, is a plastic individual, and the operator who is able to quiet the fears of such a patient, perform the necessary services and, withal, to keep the good will of his young friend has learned and practiced a most important example of adaptation of personality.

WE DRAW NEARER OUR GOAL

By John K. Ragbir, '37

THE number "Thirteen" has always been linked up with misfortune. Though comprised of thirteen members, the present Sophomore Class of the Dental School is far from being afraid of this number. We regard our apparent dilemma as a challenge—to prove to others that superstitions like this were meant only for gullible persons and not for dental students.

At this time of the year we have completed the greater part of our pre-clinical courses, which have been practically the same as for the medical students. We do feel greatly benefited by such courses as General Pathology, Bacteriology, Pharmacology, and Physiology. Though we feel that we have at times been forced to study certain details just to forget them after the examinations, the fundamental principles have remained with us, and it is left for us to apply our knowledge of these principles in all our dental operations. We must see in a diseased oral condition, more than the condition itself and its need of mechanical repair. We need to see the cause, and its effects, both local and systemic, our restoration being based on these observations. We now feel the greater need for regarding the mouth as a portal of entry into the body, and not as a cavity containing teeth.

The way has been somewhat rugged, and the outlook, at times, has been very dark, but as one writer puts it—

"The darkest watch is that which precedes the dawn, and relief is often nearest us when least we expect it."

After two years of preclinical medicine, we are relieved by an opportunity to get over our "clinic fright" by doing such operations as "Placing the Rubber Dam" and "Giving Oral Prophylaxis."

"Time Marches On," the Sophomore year is near its close. We, the "lucky" thirteen are simply "rearing to go," when we shall be let loose as Juniors in the clinics. Our hands itch in our anxiety to hold a pair of forceps in real action. We are impatient to know whether preparing a cavity in a patient's mouth is six, eight, or ten times as difficult, as working on a manikin.

Also, Thirteen, have we stopped to consider the number of instruments we shall need for the coming year?

IMPRESSIONS OF THE FRESHMAN YEAR CLASS OF '38

By Thomas E. Harper

TOWARD the latter part of September, 1934, twelve young men left their homes and came to Washington to pursue a course of higher education. We, young men, the present Freshman Class, were naturally filled with a feeling of joy and great expectations, for the day had come when we started definitely in pursuit of our real careers. We knew that by entering the College of Dentistry of Howard University we were availing ourselves of every opportunity to prepare ourselves in this field, for, had not the graduates assured us of such?

It is almost a year now that we have been students of Howard University College of Dentistry, and, it is a year which will remain fresh in our memories forever. Hardly a day passes that we are not impressed more and more with the importance and possibilities of our chosen profession. We have come to realize that dentistry is not only a health profession, but an essential branch of the medical sciences. Our impression of dentistry is that it is a science which deals with the health and function of the oral cavity. We have found that our profession is not concerned with the extraction of teeth and the restoration of lost dentures alone, but also with the diagnosis of certain diseases which either originate in the month, or show indications there, in the later stages of their pathology.

Though our studies required a great deal of effort, they proved to be very interesting. At first, we were confronted with difficulties which seemed too cumbersome to overcome. It appeared that our greatest difficulty was in making proper adjustments to our new environment. We were inclined to believe that our studies would be comparable to undergraduate work. However, it did not take us long to realize our mistake.

During the year we have been taking courses in Gross Anatomy, Embryology, Histology, Biochemistry, Physiology, Prosthetic Dentistry, and Oral Anatomy. Recently we have started courses in Operative Dentistry and the History of Dentistry.

The Freshman Class knows now the requirements for successfully entering a profession. It requires willingness, a good background, untiring effort and great tenacity. We have, moreover, been fortunate in having the great consideration and help which our professors and instructors have always been willing to give us. We wish to thank them sincerely for their great effort.

DENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS FOR ELEMENTARY GRADES

DENTAL HYGIENE '35

By Louise Overton

AN AROUSING dental health program should be promoted to acquaint the public with facts concerning oral health and services rendered by the dental profession. The teachers of the elementary grades can do much in motivating a great dental health movement.

In her role, the teacher should give some attention to the conditions of her pupils' mouth every day during the health inspection period. At least once a year, she may have a project on teeth which can be correlated readily with other subjects. She may sponsor a dental poster contest; have each pupil make a dental booklet; place simple dental literature in the library corner; give short plays about the teeth, and present motion pictures and puppet shows. In addition, she may display a dental honor roll having the names of the pupils who have had their dental defects corrected. Such an honor roll will serve as an incentive for others. With proper and enthusiastic motivation these activities should foster a desire for oral health in the child.

It follows, then, that the number of children receiving dental attention should be increased. In achieving our goal among the school children, we are assured of healthy mouths among the adults of the future. The improvement of the mouths of the public as a whole can be accomplished by creating a desire in the child for good oral health.

Materials which will be of aid to the teacher in the dental health program:

<i>No.*</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Title</i>
400	Flier	Home Care of the Teeth (for children)
401	Circular	Your Teeth—What They Are For (for children)
404	Flier	Building Teeth (for children)
405	Circular	Oral Hygiene Stories (for children)
405A	Circular	Oral Hygiene Stories (for children)
420	Circular	Material for Dental Health Entertainment
DH-1	Circular	Mouth Hygiene Project (for teachers and nurses)
DH-4	Circular	Exhibit and Educational Material
DH-7	Circular	Why Teach Mouth Hygiene? (for teachers)
DH-16	Card	Directions for Use of Dental Honor Roll

* Taken from Journal of American Dental Hygiene Association, June, 1933.

The above material may be obtained from the State Department of Health and Welfare Bureau of Health, Division of Dental Hygiene, Augusta, Maine. Order by number and quantity.

Stories:

"Betty's Trip to Fairyland," by Helen Large, D.H., Journal of the American Dental Hygiene Association, July, 1934, Vol. III, No. 3.

"Two Armies Meet," by Madelyn Smith, D.H., Journal of the American Dental Hygiene Association, July, 1934, Vol. III, No. 3.

"Letty Lettuce's Debut," by Helen Large, D.H., Journal of the American Dental Hygiene Association, April, 1934, Vol. III, No. 2.

The above stories are recommended for the third and fourth grades.

Motion Pictures:

Colgate Company, New York, N. Y.

Puppet Shows:

Local dairies.

A royal reception awaits you at the National Dental Association, Louisville, August 13, 14, 15 and 16.