

Dental Treatment

By Dr. M. G. Tamaskar*

In the big cities among the upper class and upper and middle classes, people are much more dental-minded than those in the rural areas and small towns. It is for this reason more Dental propaganda is needed in the rural areas.

The uneducated person is afraid to enter a Dental Clinic, especially when he observes the modern and up-to-date appearance of the set-up. He immediately begins to think that it is too expensive to go to such clinics. So chooses a cheaper and unhygienic source of treatment, thereby inviting more dental problems. Thus there is need for dental education to remove wrong concepts about dental treatments.

It is the duty of the Dental Surgeon to give a general check-up and advise the patient for the necessary treatment viz removal of the tooth; bleeding gums; caries tooth (decay) and mal-position of the teeth etc.

Patients must be explained the proper techniques of brushing the teeth daily to keep them clean and to avoid dental trouble. It need be emphasised that care of the teeth should be an essential part of daily routine.

So far as a decayed tooth is concerned, the bacteria (*Lactobacillus acidophilus*) is the real cause of the decay—there is no such thing as a germ to be found in decayed teeth even in Pyorrhea. It is wrong to inform the patient that maggot/germs exist in teeth.

Now-a-days there are many patients who wish to have their teeth cleaned. This process is very simple for only the deposits and stains are removed, but no other

extra coating is applied to the teeth, neither is there any grinding done to whiten them.

It is the duty of the Dental Surgeon to inform the patient exactly what is being done, and enlighten him accordingly. Some patients are of the opinion that when teeth are cleaned the roots are exposed and there is a danger of the teeth becoming weak. This is not so. It is good to have the teeth cleaned regularly and to have a Dental check-up at least once in six months so as to prolong the life of the teeth.

It is also essential to convince the parents of children to bring them for a regular check-up at least once in three months—so as to make sure that nothing is going wrong.

Some people imagine that with the removal of a tooth the eyesight is affected. This might happen very seldom, for it depends much on the general health of the patient.

There are times when a patient with protruding teeth wishes to have them grinded out. This can be done by Orthodontic treatment only. No amount of grinding can help the patient, for there is danger of exposing the inner structures which are dentin and the pulp chamber making it very sensitive to the temperature of food and drink leading to Gingivitis and hyper-sensitive dentin generally causing the tooth to become loose.

If the patient comes for treatment in the early stage, then the teeth can be saved by crowning or root canal treatment; but if the patient comes in the later stage removal of the teeth would be the only alternative. ☐

Notice

PUNJAB BRANCH

The third Annual Conference of the Trained Nurses Association of India, Punjab State Branch, will be held in the Randhir College Hall, Kapurthala City, on December 9, 1972.

Outstation nurses may write to Miss Sethi, Conference Chairman, TNAI (Punjab State Branch) 3rd Conference, C/o Civil Hospital, Kapurthala, before 8th December, 1972, for registration by remitting Rs. 3/- as registration fee.

Full details in the Punjab State Branch Newsletter No. 6 has been sent to all institutions/life members separately.

Mrs. U. Sapra,
Secretary,
Punjab State Branch.

Bengal Executive

Calcutta : The following are the members of the West Bengal Branch executive committee. They were elected at the meeting of the branch held on September 25 at the Medical College Hospital.

President : Miss Uma Sengupta, M.K. Bangur Hosp.; **Vice President :** S. Neogi, NRS Med. College Hosp.; **Secretary :** M. Sengupta, R.G. Kar Med. College Hosp.; **Jt. Secretary :** Parul Roy, M.R. Bangur Hosp.; **Treasurer :** Sati Ghose, Registrar, West Bengal Nursing Council; **Jt. Treasurer :** E. Mukherjee, R.G. Kar Med. College Hosp.; **Programme Chairman :** Subha Dasgupta, Dy. Asst. Director of Health Services (Nsg.); **Asst. Programme Chairman :** Bani Chatterjee, Calcutta Hosp. for Medical Researches; **Membership Chairman :** Helen Banerjee, Dy. ADHS (Nsg.) SNA Advisor: Kalyani Biswas, Med. College Hosp.; **Asst. SNA Advisor :** P. Chakraborty, National Med. College Hosp.; **ANM Organiser :** R.K. Begg and **Asst. ANM Organiser :** Kana Biswas, both from Dr. H.C. Memorial Health School; **Adviser :** S. Zachariah, IHH & PH, Calcutta. ☐