

## DENTAL PREPAREDNESS FROM MEDICAL DEPARTMENT VIEWPOINT

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I HAVE always been imbued with the logic that dentistry, with medicine and surgery, belongs to the great mother-profession, the healing art. I believe today it is probably the largest and certainly one of the most important specialties of medical science. History shows that from the very beginning those three salient factors of the healing art have largely been coexistent until about eighty-two years ago, when Harris and Hayden pulled away from the medical school of the University of Maryland, organized the first dental college of the world, and began the special education of students in dentistry as a separate profession. It is lamentable that for the next seventy-five years medicine and dentistry existed as separate professions and were more or less out of sympathetic touch. While each was striving for scientific attainment, and both were replete with achievements for the alleviation of human suffering, yet, unfortunately, they were completely dulled to an appreciation of what wonderful opportunities for the health and welfare of mankind lay within grasp of their co-ordinated activities.

The attainment of higher educational requirements, the developments in scientific study, the advancement in methods of teaching pathology, therapeutics and

surgery, and finally the achievements made in dental and bacteriological research thru which was proved the value of oral focal infection as a factor to systemic diseases has, within the last few years, drawn the lines of professional thought together and made it manifest beyond peradventure that henceforth the two associated professions heretofore unhappily estranged, must proceed hand in hand for the attainment of that high ideal, the uplift and betterment of humankind thru the conservation of health, its greatest blessing.

The resultant blending of medical and dental thought along lines of mutual endeavor in the elimination of disease and the splendid results obtained from a military standpoint thru the service of dental officers during the world-war has undoubtedly produced a welding of the two professions that will endure and result in greater benefits to a grateful humanity.

From the broadened viewpoint of one of our country's public servants, it may not be amiss for me to invite attention to some of the salient features that have served to bring dentistry prominently to the fore during the past few years.

The splendid response of the dental profession to the nation's call to arms, wherein approximately five thousand

dental officers were enrolled, commissioned and entered upon active military service was an innovation that challenged public attention and secured for dentistry the long sought for stamp of governmental recognition. The professional service rendered by these officers very materially assisted the Medical Corps in conserving health and maintaining a high degree of physical efficiency with the five million men mobilized during the war. The stupendous achievements in constructive and restorative dentistry obtained thru the co-operative effort of twenty thousand patriotic members of Preparedness League of American Dentists is a proud feat worthy of emblazonment upon the bright shield of American dentistry. The record made by this organization shows that more than one million gratuitous dental operations were performed for volunteers and drafted men before they joined the colors. As an efficiently organized service for the dental preparedness of our soldiers for campaign, this great work of the members of your profession, located thruout the length and breadth of our fair land, stands out head and shoulders above others of similar kind and is a credit to the loyalty, patriotism and solidarity of your profession.

The splendid organization of the dental service in the home country thru which the dental profession was militarized and inducted into the army and thru which adequate dental personnel and high-class equipment was installed in the several hospitals, camps, cantonments and clinics was a vastly important measure and assisted greatly in the physical preparation of the large contingent of the American army for combat service at the front three thousand miles away over sea and land.

The organization of the Dental Corps in the American Expeditionary Forces

upon purely a military status wherein the dental service was properly adjusted into its military establishment and merged into the professional activities of the Medical Department, and the assignment and development of dental officers as technical administrators for the supervision of its strictly technical service, resulted in the maximum of efficiency, and a highly satisfactory service for the army on campaign.

The special professional achievements made in face and jaw prosthesis which in conjunction with highly specialized plastic surgery has challenged the admiration of the world, has illuminated the fair name of American dentistry and brought forth into the limelight the names of Hayes, Davenport, Kasantjian, Potter, Blair, Ivy and others, and has surely maintained for American dentistry the world's supremacy heretofore granted it.

While thus reviewing the splendid war-time activities of American dentistry, I am constrained to take a broad view and include within that term the American dental manufacturers, to whom your profession owes much for the progress made and reputation won during the last forty years. I would not feel that justice had been done were I to fail in making public recognition of the faithful, whole-hearted manner in which they with combined effort met the production situation of that period. It is a proud record that none of our valient fighting men at the front ever suffered from the lack of dental attention, due to any shortcomings on the part of the manufacturers.

Before entering upon a consideration of my special subject, I must venture a few words along the lines of general preparedness from the nation's standpoint. Personally, I am a strong advocate of universal military training thru which the youth of the land may be educated and trained to best meet requirements

in fulfilling the highest obligation of citizenship—the defense of the country.

When one stops to consider that of about 200,000 officers commissioned in the army during the world-war, only 17 per cent had previous military training and 83 per cent—practically four out of every five—had to be instructed even in the elementary fundamentals of their new calling and this while the war was actually on, the importance of training citizens in time of peace in order that there may be an adequate number of officers available for military duty in time of war seems to need no further recommendation and may well be taken as food for serious thought by all our people.

Thru the operation of a policy for universal military training we as a nation would reap double benefits, for in addition to the annual acquisition of a large number of serviceable young men basically trained and available for intensive advanced training and service with the colors, we will secure beneficial results for the individual so trained that will tend to improve the mental, moral and physical standards of our people. These results briefly may be stated as follows: improvement in general physical development thru regular exercise and by teaching the importance of outdoor life and proper posture; the detection thru physical survey of hidden conditions that might prove a decided handicap during the life of the individual if not corrected, such as hookworm, malaria, flat feet, focal infections, etc.; practical instruction in sanitation and personal hygiene that teaches how to care for one's self outdoors; education in sex relationship and venereal diseases; training in discipline and the development of respect for authority; protection afforded by vaccination against typhoid, paratyphoid and other diseases which can be avoided by inoculation. Since it appears that the

will of the people is not sufficiently ripe to accept universal training as the solution of our great military problems for defense, it behooves us to foster and help develop the next best thing available, namely the voluntary Citizens' Military Training Camps and the Reserve Officers' Training Corps. Under the present plans the Citizens' Military Training Camps (C.M.T.C.) will be held annually. They are designated to furnish intensive instruction to civilians who cannot afford to devote more time to military training. The courses are divided into what are known as the red, white, and blue. Each course is of one month's duration covering the necessary practical training in camp. They all involve a certain amount of preliminary or supplementary reading on the part of the candidate at home. The red course is designed to train civilians who have never before had military service and to perfect them in the duties of the private soldier and for enrollment in the Enlisted Reserve Corps. The white course is provided for the training of graduates of the red course in the duties of a non-commissioned officer and for enrollment in the Enlisted Reserve Corps. The blue or last course is designed for the training of specially selected men from the red and white courses for duty as an officer and commissioned in the Officers' Reserve Corps. Owing to limited appropriations only about ten thousand citizens will be so trained this year, the majority of them being in the red course. Recently the President publicly announced his approval of this movement and his hope that eventually we would see about two hundred thousand youths of the land attending these camps.

Units of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps or as is commonly termed the R. O. T. C. are established only in colleges. Their object is the military train-

ing of students in conjunction with their college instruction that will lead to a commission in the Officers' Reserve Corps. As not all of the youths of our land have the privilege of attending college you will readily see why we have provided for a blue course in the C. M. T. C.

The Medical Department is in hearty accord with this great work of preparedness, as it is realized that the future strength of its reserve officers, for the three major corps, must come from this source where a prerequisite for a commission is a diploma in medicine, dentistry or veterinary surgery.

To more fully elucidate the Medical Department's application of the R. O. T. C., I shall explain that the Army Reorganization Act of June 4, 1920, made provision thru which medical, dental and veterinary corps units could be maintained in any Class A institution that could offer a minimum enrolment of fifty students in each unit. Soon after the passage of this act we began the formation of these medical department units. The response has been very encouraging and to date units have been established in eleven medical schools, five dental schools and three veterinary schools. All of the Class A dental schools of the country have been invited to co-operate with us in this course of military education and it is believed that a greater percentage of them will accept and enter upon the work with the beginning of the next session of school. These R. O. T. C. units will eventually constitute our principal replacement agency in keeping the reserve roster at a satisfactory level. Each graduate of the advanced military course will be given a commission in the reserve corps. If the majority of them join the reserve, it is estimated that they will provide an annual increment of sufficient size to take care of the normal re-

placements for both the regular and reserve corps and will more than offset our prospective losses. The schedule required is (a) a theoretical course to be given at the dental school during four calendar years comprising ninety hours of lectures or its equivalent each year; (b) a practical course in drill and field duties to be given at the summer camp of six weeks' duration during one of the students' vacations, preferably at the conclusion of his sophomore year in college.

Upon securing authorization for the establishment of a dental corps unit of the R. O. T. C. in a dental college, an officer of the Army Dental Corps is detailed to the institution as professor of military science and tactics. This officer is selected by the surgeon general after consultation with the dean of the college so that an officer suitable to all concerned may be assigned. In many instances it will be possible to send back a former student of the college as an instructor. The first two years of the R. O. T. C. course constitutes the basic course and the last two the advanced course. While the law requires ninety hours of instruction each year in medical, dental and veterinary schools, certain credits may be given for equivalent subjects embraced in the professional curriculum.

These lectures on military topics are presented in progressive fashion. While they deal with broad subjects concerning the organization and functions of the army as a whole, special stress is laid upon detailed instruction given to organization, administration, and functions of the medical department embracing the duties of the private, noncommissioned officer, and finally the junior officer. Illustrated lantern slide lectures and moving pictures collected during the progress of the world-war are extensively used. The student is not required to

wear a uniform or attend any drill or other military functions while at his professional school. He merely attends lectures on the subject of military science and tactics the same as he does with other subjects provided for in the curriculum. Upon being admitted to the advanced course to which the student becomes eligible during the last two years of his military instruction, he is paid by the government commutation of subsistence which amounts to about \$15 monthly. Upon enrollment in this advanced course he must sign an agreement to attend one encampment of six weeks' duration during his summer vacation after completion of the sophomore year. This encampment will be held at the Medical Field Service School, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. There the student will be required to apply practically the theoretical knowledge he has gained thru his lectures at the dental college. The use of all units employed by the Medical Department in peace or war will be demonstrated to him and he will actively participate in their maneuvers. All expenses of the student in traveling to, from and while at the camp of instruction are borne by the government. In addition thereto he is given the pay of a soldier during the period covered by the encampment.

Under the present economic policy of our government based upon recent congressional enactment, the regular military establishment has been reduced to a minimum, the navy curtailed in its constructive program and depleted in enlisted strength, and the respective functions of the army and navy outlined as a sort of armed guard for the preservation of peace—afloat and ashore—with all spare time devoted to education and training of the national guard and organized reserves.

The three great essentials in military preparedness for the Medical Department are personnel, material and training.

This applies equally to the medical, dental and veterinary service. With the subject of dental personnel we are fortunate in being able to announce a total of 3,763 officers now enrolled in the Dental Reserve Corps with representation in the grades of lieutenant colonel to first lieutenant inclusive. At the present ratio of one dental officer to one thousand men, this will provide dental service in excess for an army of three and one-half million men. It has been gratifying to note the happy response made by this large proportion of your profession and thus realize that the important dental service for the next great emergency will automatically be cared for by officers who have heretofore had valuable experience in the service during the world-war. We now have in storage depots sufficient Medical Department material including dental, for the first million men. This was laid aside from the vast surplus stores of non-perishable articles left from the Great War. All this type of field service equipment will be kept alive by frequent turning over so that any future emergency will find us prepared with an amount on hand sufficient for the requirements of the first phase.

From the standpoint of training it may be said that tentative plans have been approved for the organization of the Officers' Reserve Corps, which contemplates the classification of each officer as to his capabilities, special qualifications and efficiency, and tentatively assigns him to the position within his respective corps area that he should occupy. In this manner we believe it possible to avoid many of the gross errors of 1917-18.

The Act of June 4, 1920, reorganizing the army, divides the country into nine corps areas and each area has charge of the Regular Army, the National Guard and organized reserves within its boundaries. To provide the necessary Medical Department units for an emergency

force possible under this reorganization, we expect eventually to organize ninety evacuation hospitals, seventy-two surgical hospitals, three hundred and sixty general hospitals and numerous independent surgical teams, all to consist exclusively of reserve officer personnel. The assignment of dental officers under the present Tables of Organization wherein there will be one dental officer to each evacuation and each surgical hospital, and three at each general hospital, will absorb over one thousand two hundred dental officers in Medical Department projects alone. The Tables of Organization for line organizations now give twenty-two dental officers to an infantry division distributed to the various brigades, regiments, and commands thereof. On the theory that there will be one National Guard division and two organized reserve divisions within each corps area, we will thus have within the territorial limits of the United States twenty-seven divisions with a total assignment of five hundred and ninety-four dental officers. This will give approximately one thousand and eight hundred dental officers in the various grades for assignment to the different organizations accounted for in the General Staff plans for training the National Guard and organized reserve forces. The organization of a vastly expanded war time Regular Army will easily absorb the remaining reserve officers available for active field service who will be assigned in accordance with Tables of Organization.

The project of classifying, distributing and assigning the Reserve Dental Officers within each area will engage the attention of the several area headquarters within the next few weeks. The Surgeon General's Office will be able materially to assist in the assignment of dental officers in accordance with their grade, experience, service record and professional qualifications. It is hoped that

sufficient study may be afforded this important work to make it reasonably sure that properly qualified men for the special positions will be carefully and satisfactorily selected. In this connection there appears to be little reason why every man should not obtain the very assignment he is best fitted for, or for which he is particularly desirous. At any rate it will be my intention that this shall be done wherever possible.

With Medical Department units it is planned that the larger hospitals will be formed substantially the same as the American Red Cross hospitals were organized prior to the recent war. Upon designating the commanding officer for one of these units, he will, so far as possible, be permitted to select from the reserve officers those whom he may desire as assistants or as members of the unit provided the men so selected are within reasonable distance of the place designated as the home for that unit. With such an organization completed it will be possible in the event of war for reserve officers, both medical and dental, to join without confusion the Medical Department unit to which they have been assigned.

The training of Medical Department units will not require serious consideration for some years. The senior officers will have had sufficient service during the recent war to prepare them for emergencies of mobilization. Dental officers having been selected in so far as practicable to join units with which they have heretofore served, or in which they are familiar with routine duties, will not be required to undergo the same type of service exacted of the newer and less experienced men who have not had that experience during the war. Adequate training, however, of selected personnel of the Medical Department units have been provided for at the Medical Field Service School, Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Two years ago the War Department approved of the plan to make Walter Reed Hospital a great Medical Department teaching and training center. The Army Medical School, the surgeon general's library, and the Museum will shortly be moved out there and every facility will be provided to give complete technical training to medical officers. Plans are also under way for the establishment there of the Army Dental School, and it is fully expected that the same facilities for advanced technical instruction will be afforded dental officers as now are available to medical officers. New acquisitions to both corps will receive their initial technical training at this school; older officers will be brought back to receive postgraduate work; and National Guard officers and reservists will be given special technical courses. A very important step was made during the past few months when the War Department assigned Carlisle Barracks to the Medical Department as a field training center. This school was organized a few months ago under the administration of

a specially qualified medical officer of superior rank and wide experience who has been given an ample size corps of instructors composed of specially selected officers of the medical, dental and veterinary corps. It opened for the first class of instruction on June 6, 1921, and has made a splendid record for the Medical Department. This institution is teaching all the features of sanitary tactics, supplemented by practical demonstration of every Medical Department unit provided for in Tables of Organization. It is here that the new reserve officer can secure his fundamental training and actually become familiar with the organization with which he will work in active service. It is pleasing to announce that the first class of undergraduate students from the five R. O. T. C. dental units were in attendance at this first session of the Carlisle School. With the several student officers of the Regular Dental Corps and the four retired student officers they constitute about 45 per cent of the enrolment at this first session, which is a very creditable showing for the dental service.

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