

Of course, some hospitals do these things better; and in hospitals where there is plenty of room and many private nurses are employed provision is made for them, and they are as much of an institution as the regular training-school.

CHILDREN AND THEIR TEETH

By ALICE M. STEEVES, D.D.S.

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SECOND PAPER

"CLEANLINESS is next to Godliness;" "A thing of beauty is a joy forever." Two sayings especially applicable to the oral cleanliness and facial contour of children.

No matter how sweet-mannered and prettily dressed a child of ten or fifteen years of age may be, if the faintest smile reveals a row of badly kept, uneven teeth, with cavities filled with the products of decomposition, laden with the germs of tuberculosis, diphtheria, and scarlet fever (three of the contagious diseases most fatal to the youth of our land), waiting for the time when the little patient may be reduced in bodily vigor to enable them to run their life course in a well-developed case of the disease, we can feel for them only disgust and pity.

It is a well-proven fact that tuberculosis of the glands of the neck is often due to the neglect of the lower molar teeth. The cavities harbor the germs, which lose no time in finding their way down the undeveloped root canals to the glands of the neck. Therefore how many almost irreparable evils result from a little neglect,—a deformed face, impaired digestion with all the consequent nervous accompaniments, a system infected with that dread disease, tuberculosis? And if the child recovers its health, it is only after much suffering, a surgical operation, and a scar on the side of the face as a souvenir.

And what can we do to teach mothers the serious results of the crowded condition of the teeth found in so many instances?

It causes a narrowing of the face, a contracting of the nasal passages, which results in mouth breathing. These conditions aid catarrh and enlarged tonsils.

All these conditions are often present in one child, and part of them in ninety per cent. of all the children in our country.