

THE VALUE OF ENLARGED PHOTOGRAPHS OF PATIENTS IN PRACTICE*

BY GEORGE F. BURKE, D.D.S., DETROIT, MICH.

AFTER completing a course at the Dewey School of Orthodontia several years ago I became impressed with the importance of having a means of making clear to people what could be accomplished through orthodontic treatment. Models do not tell the whole story. Textbooks, unless you are fortunate enough to have one of your own, do not answer the purpose, for it is not your own work. After going over this subject, I have concluded that parents and patients more quickly understand what you propose to accomplish where one uses both models and photographs.

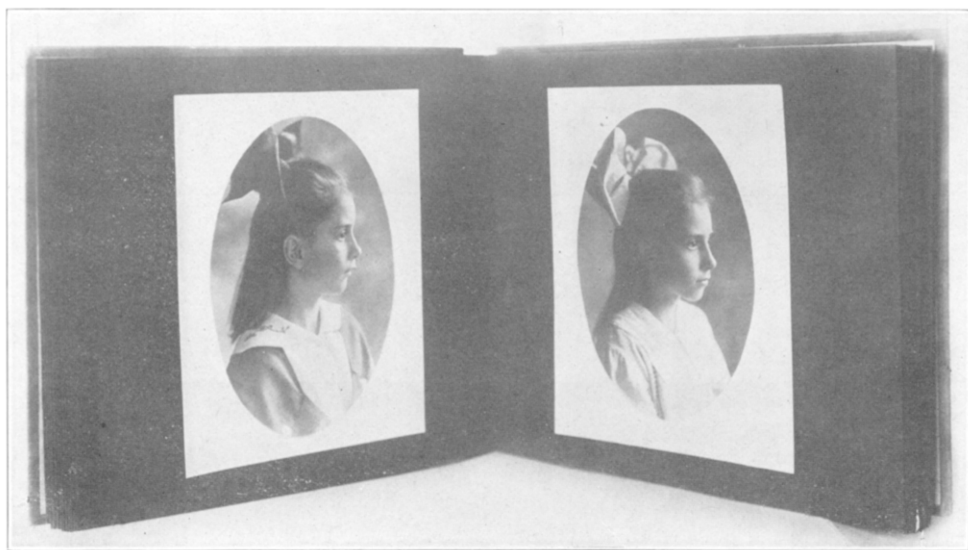


Fig. 1.—An album keeps enlarged photographs in good condition.

Some men in this field keep carefully the pictures of their patients showing conditions before and after treatment. Others pay very little attention to it. In some instances they will be slipped into some drawer, and mixed up with odd bits of stationery, and when they are most needed, one is unable to find them. Delay occasioned by searching around in some drawer for a missing picture is annoying, and not unlike hunting for a collar button that has fallen under the bed.

In order to make sure that photographs will be preserved in good order, I have for some time made use of an album, as shown in Fig. 1. The picture, taken before treatment was taken up, is placed on the left, and finished result

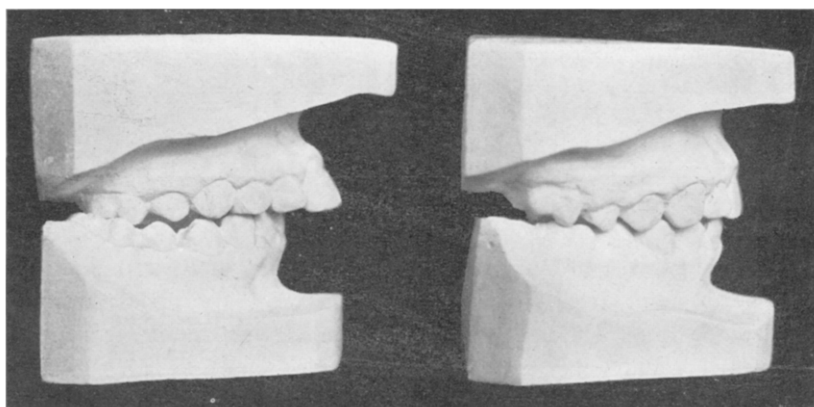
*Read before the Alumni Society of the Dewey School of Orthodontia, Chicago, Ill., 1918.



A.



B.



C.

D.

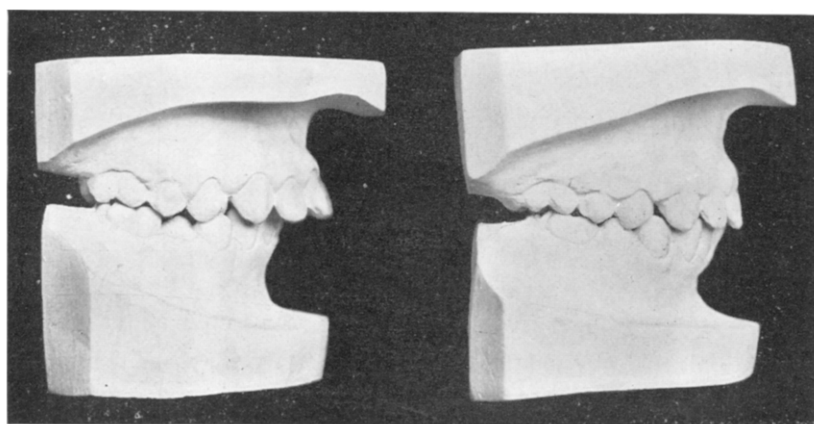
Fig. 2.—A very attractive young lady, showing both pictures and models of her teeth taken at the beginning and end of her treatment.



A.



B.



C.

D.

Fig. 3.—Shows both pictures and models before and after treatment. Period of treatment nearly three years.

on the right. They are not retouched, but they are uniformly enlarged. Neither are these pictures taken of all the children, but only of those where we feel that the treatment will change the facial contour or expression.

One forms a very strong attachment for a collection of photographs of children who have gone through treatment. During a considerable period they come frequently into one's life, and we learn much of their habits, peculiarities, and their hobbies. In many instances, we grow very fond of them, and our memory goes back, as we turn over the pages of such an album, to the time when either the child or one of its parents was kind enough to express appreciation of what had been accomplished. Both because of our friendship for these young people, together with a just pride that we take in seeing this work carried to a successful completion, we attach an immeasurable value to a book filled with such photographs.

The album shown in Fig. 1 has a cover made of soft vellum leather brownish in color and smooth in texture. It has loose leaves, and they are of very heavy black cardboard and not easily wrinkled. Extra leaves are kept handy so that additions can be made from time to time. The photographs are mounted in each instance so that the case before treatment will appear on the left, and the completed case on the right.

Parents bring their children for orthodontic treatment frequently with much hesitancy. In many instances they have heard ugly rumors in regard to this service. They have heard that it caused pain. They have been told that the appliances will cause the teeth to decay. It has also come to their ears that the teeth after being moved do not always remain where the operator intended they should.

Many people are like those from Missouri, when it comes to deciding on the wisdom of having their children treated for malocclusion. These enlarged photographs furnish one a splendid medium of impressing people with the changes that result through treatment.

Where parents bring children showing a condition of marked Class II, and express a wish to have such conditions corrected, one can not by means of models show what changes can be looked for in the teeth alone, and without photographs one can not make clear the very great changes to be expected through correcting the malocclusion. Where the features are affected by the malocclusion, benefits to be derived from treatment can not be made clear without suitable pictures such as are found in the accompanying illustrations.

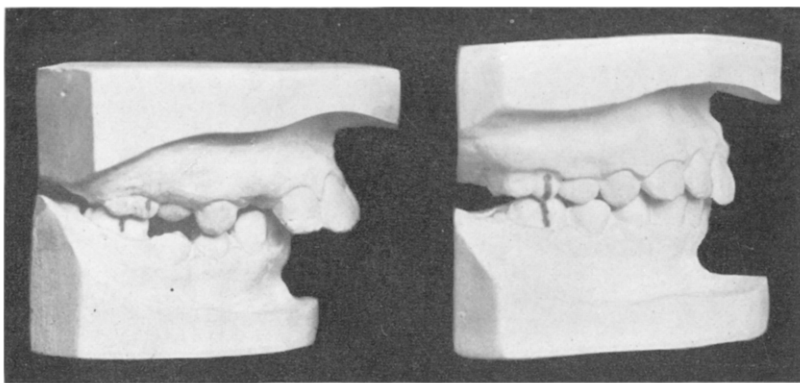
Do you think that any parent wishes to bring a child up with such features as the cartoonist makes use of in his caricatures of a pugilist or professional ball player, when she once realizes that marked benefit will result from proper attention? Never, provided she has education, forethought, and funds to carry it through. Models may show that the upper teeth are distal in their relation to the lower, but the parent will not be convinced that changing the relative position of the teeth in one arch to those in the other, actually does reshape the chin, lips, and cheeks until she sees photos, showing other cases that have been treated. Orthodontic treatment is so clearly indicated in thousands of cases



A.



B.



C.

D.

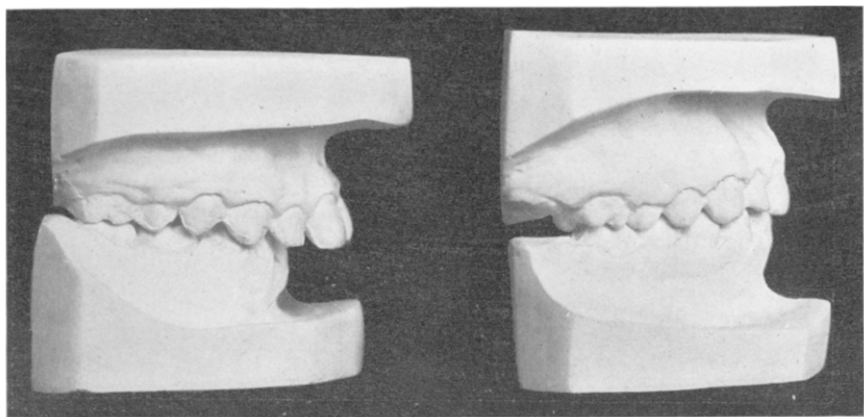
Fig. 4.—Genuine appreciation on the part of both patient and parents has resulted in case of Fig. 4.
Period of treatment two and one-half years.



A.



B.



C.

D.

Fig. 5.—The photographs and models tell their own story. Period of treatment more than three years.

that have to go untreated, that it would seem that this whole subject should be studied by the very best professional and business minds with the end in view of meeting the great needs of this work in a more satisfactory manner.

This country, owing to its very large middle class, has more trained orthodontists, without doubt, than all the other countries combined, and as one surveys the whole field both among the laity, and in our own specialty, one is very much inclined to feel deep gratitude toward such men as Angle and Dewey for their service in giving instruction in this subject to such a large number of men and women who have carried on their work in so many different localities.

The demand for well-trained men in orthodontia is not growing less; it is on the increase, and there are a number of reasons why the demand for this service should grow. In the first place those that have followed carefully the teachers of this subject in a good postgraduate school are getting highly satisfactory results. Then the mouth hygiene movement is doing much to direct the attention of parents to faulty occlusion of the teeth. Health exhibits are a strong educational factor. "How to Live," by Irving Fisher, and "Breathe and Be Well," by Dr. Howard, are books that are both being widely read today, and both have chapters dealing with this subject. The passing of John Barleycorn will give people more funds to spend in behalf of their own physical welfare.

By means of the draft employed to raise the army in this great war, from which this country has just emerged, the fact should be driven home to legislative bodies in this country that physical defects and disease bar the way to many who would serve their country at such a time. The fact that so many fail to pass the tests in such a crisis would lead one to believe that one of the prime benefits to be derived from such a conflict would be an awakened conscience relative to the whole subject of hygiene, resulting in a willingness on the part of the people to spend appropriations freely in the matter of health propaganda, so that there will be less disease.

Before leaving the subject of pictures, it is my wish to dwell for a brief period on another kind—the shadow picture or radiogram, which in the hands of many men is a splendid means of diagnosing conditions about the mouth. While in recent years this method has been in much more common use than formerly, there still remains much educational work to be done before they will be used as extensively as they should.

Both the medical and dental profession appear to be divided into three great classes. First, those that never use radiograms; second, those that refer such work out now and then; and, third, those whose offices are fully equipped with suitable apparatus, and who make the fullest and freest use of it, as occasion requires.

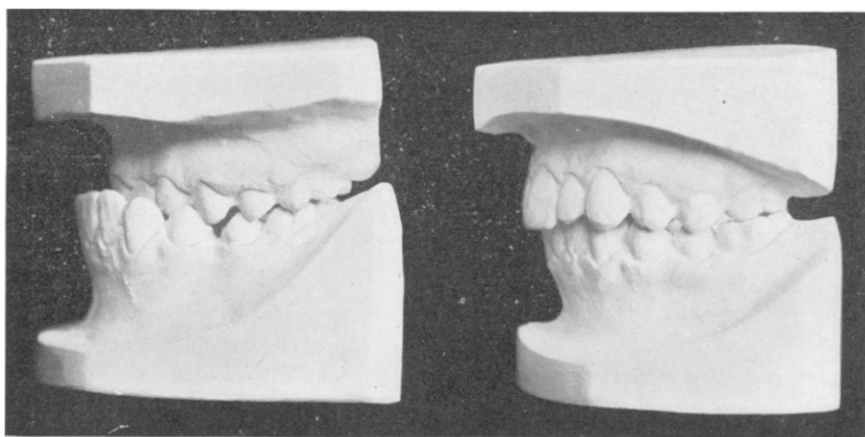
Let us take, for instance, the case of two dentists located in a small town, suppose that one makes free use of the x-ray in his diagnosis, and that the other does not know its value and refrains from its use. Who is going to be right more often in diagnosis? You know the answer, and we also know that the thoughtful people living thereabouts will know the truth some day, and that the man who makes the smaller percentage of mistakes in his work from day



A.



B.



C.

D.

Fig. 6.—A very marked case of protrusion of the mandible. Corrected after a period of treatment extending over a period of two years.



A.



B.

Fig. 7.—Shows picture taken before and after treatment. The arches were somewhat mutilated.



A.



B.

Fig. 8.—*A* shows a patient with upper incisors distal to the lower incisors. *B* was taken 18 months later, when the relationship had been changed.

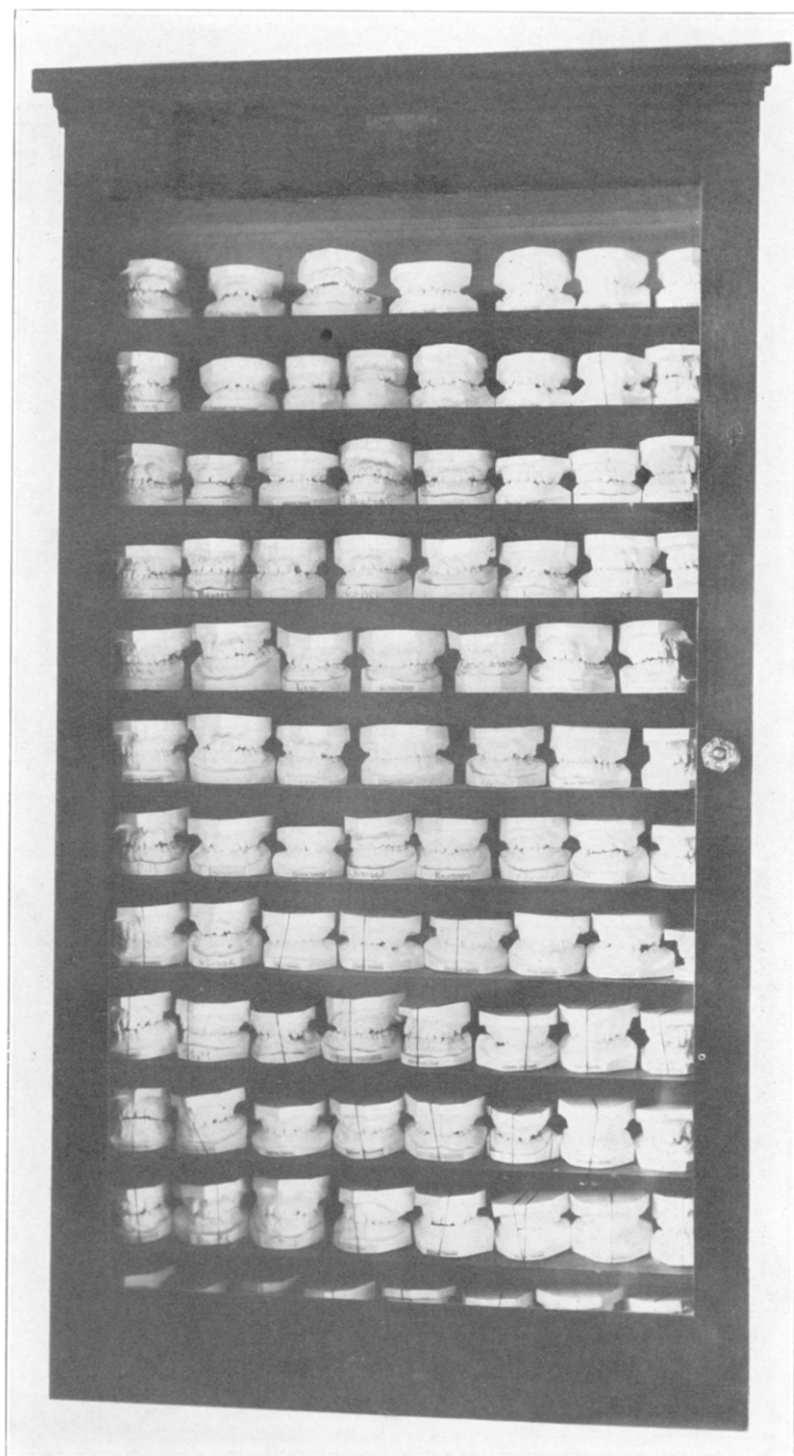
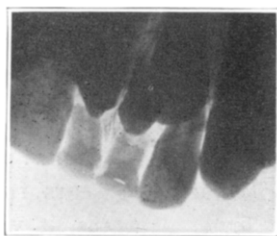
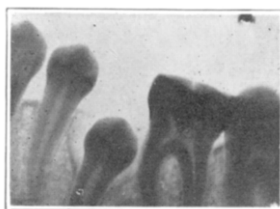


Fig. 9.—A cabinet for models of patients under treatment.



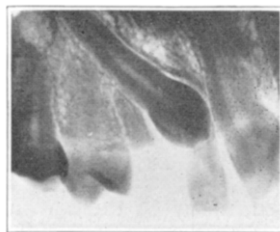
Unerupted teeth.



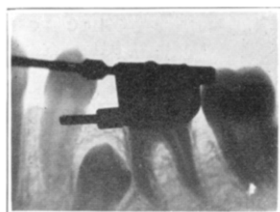
Unerupted premolar.



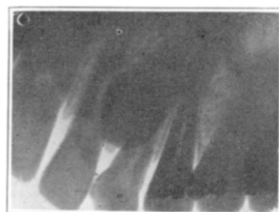
Unerupted cuspid.



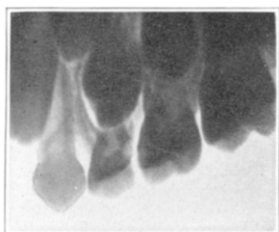
Unerupted cuspid.



Unerupted premolar.



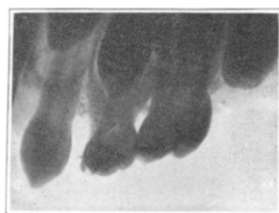
Unerupted cuspid.



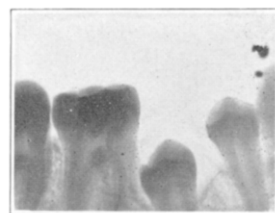
Unerupted teeth.



Unerupted cuspid.



Unerupted teeth.



Unerupted premolar.

Fig. 10.—Good radiograms are indispensable in diagnosis.

to day is the one who will have the confidence of a large number of that class of citizens whose patronage is most sought.

The subject of radiography is never called to my attention but my mind goes back to a scene in a hospital operating room where an unfortunate woman was being operated on for removal of a lower impacted third molar. Her case history showed that she had suffered for a period of eight years from facial neuralgia. As the patient wore full upper and lower dentures, it was not at first suspected that the real cause of the ailment was an unerupted tooth. But after this very long period of suffering she was finally prevailed upon to have used the x-ray, revealing as it did this tooth, located down towards the angle of the jaw. Its successful removal resulted in an early recovery.

The splendid work done by such men as Hartzel, Mayo, Morehead, and Price would indicate that there are thousands and thousands of patients in hospitals and occupying invalids' beds, who if they could be prevailed upon to have their dental arches radiographed, and the necessary corrective work done as indicated, many of them would, in a comparatively short time, be in position to regain their health.

In orthodontic practice, radiograms reveal which teeth are missing and by means of it one can check up the progress being made by teeth that have not yet erupted, and the presence of a good outfit in your office results in a greater degree of satisfaction on the part of patients. My experience teaches me that they do not wish to be referred to others every time one wishes a radiogram. It establishes an operator, in their minds, as one who is more fully equipped in the matter of appliances, than the one who is groping in the dark in regard to those matters that are so important to the welfare of patients.