Centennial History of Dentistry in Rochester

By

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THE history of dentistry in Rochester during the last one hundred years is most interesting, and closely connected with the history of dental activities in America and throughout the world. During this time the dentists of Rochester have played an important part in all matters relating to the progress of the dental profession.

At the time of the incorporation of Rochester as a city, in 1834, dentistry was in its infancy. No dental schools were then in existence. Not until 1845, when the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery was established, was there any school where regular dental instruction could be obtained. Prior to that time, it was necessary to serve an apprenticeship in the office of some practitioner. Much of the early dental service was rendered by itinerant practitioners, usually medical men, whose principal work was the extraction of teeth with the aid of turnkeys, as forceps were not yet invented.

MATERIALS AND APPLIANCES

In the beginning, artificial teeth were carved from blocks of ivory and held in place by springs. Later, gold and silver plates were used. Porcelain as a material for artificial teeth

1 Editor's Note: The one-hundredth anniversary of the founding of the first dental society in the world, in New York, in 1834, was celebrated in December, 1934, by the First and Second District Dental Societies of Greater New York. The meeting also commemorated the one-hundredth anniversary of the first known practice of dentistry as a profession in this country. The original dentists were Drs. James Reading and James Mills, who began their practice in New York in 1734.
was first proposed in France by Fauchard in 1728; but the manufacture of porcelain teeth was first begun in Paris somewhere between 1774 and 1776. Dr. Stockton of Philadelphia was the first man in this country to make porcelain teeth. Since that time, the manufacture of porcelain teeth has been carried to a high degree of perfection.

After the introduction of porcelain, other improvements followed; of which continuous gum plates, invented by Dr. John Allen in 1851, were perhaps the most important. They were made of porcelain baked on platinum. The use of such plates was restricted on account of the expense involved in their manufacture, and also the liability of breaking, if dropped. Following this, plates were made from alloys of silver and tin; and celluloid came into use.

Gutta-percha as a base was introduced in England by Edwin Truman about 1851. That same year Nelson Good year discovered a method of making a hard rubber compound, since named vulcanite. In 1855, Charles Goodyear, Jr., obtained a patent in England for making a dental plate of hard rubber in which the teeth were secured before the compound was vulcanized.

During the past century vulcanite rubber has been used for plates more than any other material; and has been used in various combinations in prosthetic dentistry. Vulcanite is less expensive than any other material which has come into the manufacture of artificial plates, and as it has been during the past century it probably will continue to be the material most largely used in the construction of artificial dentures.

For twenty years after 1834 not much progress was made in operative dentistry. With the introduction of gold foil for the filling of teeth, and of methods and appliances for its use, rapid development was made in the improvement of the technique and skill of dental practitioners. During the last half century, other filling materials have been introduced many of them designed to reduce the cost of dental service and also to replace the use of gold, particularly in work performed on the upper and lower front teeth.

Without doubt, the greatest advance in the history of dentistry, in the operative and mechanical part, has been made in the last twenty-five years. Appliances and devices of vari-
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Kinds of material have been invented to do away with the cumbersome, inartistic and unsatisfactory methods practiced in the early days of dentistry. Crown and bridge work, full and partial dentures, and removable artificial substitutes have been brought to the highest state of perfection. The use of porcelain in dentistry has become quite general to replace the unsightly gold substitutes formerly in use.

Also, during the past twenty-five years, great strides have been made in preventive dentistry. Efforts have been made to educate the public with reference to the value of early attention to the teeth, the hygiene of the mouth, and nutrition. Particular attention has been directed to the filling and care of children's teeth and the education of parents and children to the value of this service.

The manufacture of forceps was commenced about 1840, and quickly superseded the cruel, inefficient turnkeys. Our dental manufacturers in this country have been in the front rank in the development of instruments, appliances and dental furniture. Much credit is due to the late Frank Ritter for the invention of the modern dental chair, the success of which led to the organization of the present Ritter Dental Company, of Rochester, which has expanded from time to time, so that it is now regarded as one of the world's leading manufacturers of chairs, units and X-ray machines.

INVENTIONS BY DENTISTS

Dentistry is proud of the part which some of its members have played as inventors, and in the discovery of methods and appliances, for the relief of pain and the alleviation of suffering. Without doubt, one of the greatest boons conferred upon humanity was the use and discovery of anesthetics by Dr. Horace Wells of Hartford, Connecticut, and also by Drs. William T. G. Morton and Crawford W. Long, early in the 1840's. To these men is due the credit of having, by their discovery and use, contributed more to the comfort and happiness of the people of the world than by any other single discovery or invention in medicine and dentistry.

To Dr. John B. Beers of Rochester is given the credit for the invention of the first gold crown used in capping of a broken-down tooth. The first repeating rifle was the invention...
of an itinerant Rochester dentist, Dr. Edward Maynard, in 1851. The first practical rapid fire gun was invented by a Rochester dentist, Dr. Josephus Requa, in 1863. Twenty of these guns were made at Rochester for the United States Army and thirty at Troy, which were effective in the battles of Peterboro and Cold Harbor. Dr. Requa died at Rochester in 1910, after practicing dentistry here for half a century.

**DENTAL PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION**

It was here in Rochester that the first attempt was made to organize a Dental Protective Association for the protection of the individual dentists from unjust attacks by those holding patents on appliances and methods. The suggestion for the organization of an association of this kind was taken up readily by the dental profession in Chicago and the national organization formed, which has resulted in the obtaining of national and state legislation which prohibits the granting of patents for methods and appliances used in the healing art.

**FREE DENTAL CLINICS**

Rochester is justly entitled to the credit for the establishment of the first free dental clinic in the United States, which was started by the Rochester Dental Society in 1901. This service was rendered in the City Hospital, but discontinued after a trial of two years.

In 1904, a new organization was formed by the same society for the purpose of rendering free dental service to those who were unable to pay for the services of a regular practitioner. The work in this clinic was voluntary and performed by the leading dentists of Rochester. The funds needed for supplying this dispensary with instruments and appliances were provided by the late Captain Henry Lomb, who made an initial donation of six hundred dollars.

A charter was obtained from the State Board of Charities and the dispensary opened to the public on Washington's Birthday, February 22, 1905. Through cooperation with the principals of the high schools, children were sent to the clinic for examination. If dental service was required, they were told to consult their dentists; but if they could not afford to pay for the service, to visit the dispensary. Voluntary medical
and dental service are usually not very reliable, so it was decided to employ a regular dentist, whose salary was paid by Captain Lomb up to his death in 1908.

From the time the first dental clinic was established by the Rochester Dental Society in Number Fourteen School, the idea spread throughout the country and abroad until it reached a high state of perfection. To the late Captain Henry Lomb much credit is due for the interest which he manifested in children’s dental service, and to his financial contributions without which this work could not have been started under such favorable auspices.

Soon after the establishment of this first clinic, a room was set aside in old Number Twenty-six School for the benefit of the children in that immediate neighborhood. Funds for this purpose were provided by Captain Lomb, William Bausch, and George Eastman. The clinics just referred to were carried on until work commenced in the Rochester Dental Dispensary in 1917.

To the dentists of Rochester, who were instrumental in the organization of the first dental clinic, is no doubt due the credit for the far-reaching effect in calling the attention of the profession and the public to the value of early attention to the teeth. The pattern set here in the organization and maintenance of the clinic was followed in many other towns and cities throughout the land and also adopted in some places abroad.

FIRST DENTISTS OF ROCHESTER

In 1884, in the Semi-Centennial History of Rochester, by William F. Peck (p. 341), and Rochester: A Story Historical, published the same year by Jenny Marsh Parker (p. 393), will be found interesting references to the early practitioners. Dr. E. F. Wilson, in his article on The Dental Profession, in Peck’s History, said (p. 343):

A directory of Rochester published in 1827 does not mention a dentist so it is fair to conclude that there were none here at that time. I incline to the opinion that Dr. Elisha A. Bigelow was the first man to practise dentistry in Rochester, doing his work at the hotels where he stopped. He was well known at the old Eagle Hotel and in various towns of Monroe County, as well as other parts of Western New York. He was a man of fair ability for the time. Some of his work stood for over twenty years. Dr. S. W. Jones
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came a little later as an itinerant practitioner. Without doubt Dr. Lewis K. Faulkner, who died last autumn [1883], was the first settled dentist here; but he had not practised dentistry for some years previous to his death. Dr. Horatio N. Fenn, who was a graduate in medicine and had been a druggist, opened an office in the city for the practice of dentistry about the year 1840. When I came to Rochester in 1847, there were here Drs. Lewis K. Faulkner, Horatio N. Fenn, David Haines, John B. Beers, Charles Mills, Hunted C. Wanzer, Truman A. Proctor, Newell Allen, and one or two others, whose names I do not now recollect. Others were studying, who soon after commenced practice. Of all those who were here then all are dead except Dr. Truman A. Proctor and myself. From that time until the present the number of dentists in the city has increased until there are now about thirty-five—enough to do the work for a population of two hundred thousand.

While there is no mention of dentists practicing in Rochester prior to 1834 in the various histories of dentistry in Rochester, I have in my possession, through the courtesy of the late Dr. J. Edward Line, notes handed to him, May 4, 1908, by Dr. Josephus Requa, one of the oldest and most respected practitioners in Rochester. The memorandum prepared by Dr. Requa was no doubt authentic as he was interested in the early history of dentistry in Rochester and was always regarded as reliable and painstaking in whatever investigations were carried on by him. His interesting statement as to early dentists follows:

Dr. Horatio N. Fenn

"Commenced practice of dentistry at Rochester in 1818. Graduated in medicine at New Haven in 1828. In 1825 put in some block teeth carved from ivory for Gerrit Smith. From 1829 gave my whole time to dentistry. Put in the first full set of teeth in 1833, which was carved from ivory. First used porcelain teeth in 1834. That year, a man called on me who said he had incorruptible teeth. Bought some pivot teeth at fifty cents a piece. Charged five dollars for setting. Before that, used human and also calves teeth dressed to the right size for pivot teeth. Made the first set of porcelain plate teeth in 1835. Think the first porcelain teeth I heard of were made by a Frenchman. The first I knew by the maker's name were made by Dr. Stockton."

Dr. Elizah A. Bigelow

Was here in 1825, 1828, 1829. A bill of Dr. Bigelow's was considered so exorbitant that it was framed and placed on exhibition in the Rochester Museum.

Dr. Lewis K. Faulkner

After practicing dentistry in Cooperstown, New York, four years, came
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to Rochester in 1828. Used to set human teeth when he could get them, also worked over cattle teeth. Used to carve from ivory when the roots were gone. Considered a root in front valuable.

DR. DAVID HAINE

Commenced here about 1830. He afterwards took in with him his brother, Dr. William Haines, who remained in practice here until about 1860.

DR. JOHN B. BEERS

Commenced here in 1839, went to California in 1849.

DR. HUSTED C. WANTZ


DR. AMSBEL MORGAN


DR. NEWELL ALLEN

Commenced practice in Bangor, Maine, in 1843. Came to Rochester in 1844.

DR. TRUMAN A. PROCTOR


DR. JOHN NARAMORE 1847
DR. CHARLES MILLS 1848
DR. D. J. PERR 1850
DR. B. RUSH Mc Gregor 1853
DR. H. BROCKWAY 1853
DR. BARNABUS WRIGHT 1850
DR. J. BROWN 1857

Dr. E. F. Wilson was one of the first practitioners with the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery and probably was one of the first graduates of dentistry from the first dental school established in 1840. From 1834 to about 1860, a number of itinerant dentists practiced here and even up to as late as fifty years ago, it was not unusual for dentists to go from town to town to render dental service not only in hotels, but also in the homes of their patients. Some of these dentists were men who were skillful and versatile in the practice of their profession. Some of the professional cards and advertising of Rochester dentists, in the Rochester directories from

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1840 to 1868, as well as the newspapers of those days, are interesting and in striking contrast with the practice of ethical dentists at the present time. It should be remembered that in the period referred to, dentistry had not been recognized or organized as a profession. There was no recognized code of ethics for medical practitioners or dentists at the time referred to. It is interesting to quote for the benefit of practitioners today some of the advertisements that appeared prior to 1868 (see picture herein). Many of these men whose advertisements appeared in the Rochester directories were expert, reliable and conscientious practitioners of dentistry, who rendered honest, worth-while service. They were not charlatans, as might be imagined from the reading of these statements. Some of them took a leading part in the organization of the dental profession and were instrumental in raising the standard of the profession.

In the early days dentists, like medical men, were narrow and secretive in their attitude towards their professional brethren. There was much jealousy, and the practitioner who imparted professional knowledge to a competitor was a rare individual. As dental societies began to be organized and dental journals published, a quick and definitely liberal attitude was observed. It was not long before individual practitioners gave clinics and demonstrations and even read papers in their own vicinity describing methods of practice. Some of these early practitioners even became so cordial and liberal that they did occasionally invite other practitioners to visit their laboratories, which up to that time had been regarded as mysterious places where strange and unusual appliances were manufactured.

THE ROCHESTER DENTAL SOCIETY

The first Rochester Dental Society was formed in 1868, when the following officers were elected: President, Dr. Husted C. Wanner; vice-president, Dr. John Naramore; treasurer, Dr. Ansel A. Morgan; secretary, Dr. H. S. Miller.

Owing to misunderstandings, the society soon disbanded. It was reorganized in 1878 with the following officers: President, Dr. H. S. Miller; vice-president, Dr. B. F. LaSalle; secretary, Dr. J. Edward Line.

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The twenty-fifth anniversary of the society was celebrated in 1903 by a complimentary dinner to its founders: Dr. Josephus Requa; Dr. L. D. Walter; Dr. F. D. Brown, Mt. Morris; Dr. J. S. Walter; Dr. Frank French; Dr. Henry S. Miller; Dr. W. E. Royce; Dr. J. Edward Line; Dr. Maurice Leyden; Dr. J. Edward Sanford and Dr. B. Frank LaSalle. The dinner was held at the Rochester Whist Club and was a notable occasion, attended by the leaders of the dental profession in New York State. The Rochester Dental Society has carried on through all these years and has contributed much to the advancement of dentistry in this city.

The present officers of the Rochester Dental Society for the year 1933-1934 are as follows: President, Dr. George Cronk; vice-president, Dr. W. D. Sprague; secretary, Dr. Henry D. Rohrer; treasurer, Dr. Willard Gray.

SEVENTH DISTRICT DENTAL SOCIETY

The Seventh District Dental Society was organized at Canandaigua, June 2, 1868, in accordance with the provisions of the first dental law passed in this state, which became operative on April 7, 1868. The first officers were as follows: President, Dr. Frank French, Rochester; vice-president, Dr. A. G. Coleman, Canandaigua; secretary, Dr. J. L. Clark, Waterloo; treasurer, Dr. W. F. Eddington, Geneva.

The present officers of the Seventh District Society for 1933-1934 are: President, Dr. Michael Bradley; vice-president, Dr. Paul Jones; recording secretary, Dr. Harold Bowman; corresponding secretary, Dr. Henry D. Rohrer; treasurer, Dr. George Greenwood.

THE DENTAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

There were about twenty-five practitioners present at this first seventh district meeting. The dental law provided that dentists practicing in the various judicial districts should meet and elect delegates to form a state society. The following delegates were elected to attend the state organization meeting at Albany, June 20, 1868: Dr. Frank French, Rochester; Dr. John L. Clark, Waterloo; Dr. J. A. Chase, Genesee; Dr. W. F. Eddington, Geneva; Dr. B. W. Cook, Brockport;
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Dr. A. G. Coleman, Canandaigua; Dr. L. D. Walter, Rochester; and Dr. H. S. Miller, Rochester.

The organization of the state society was an epoch-making meeting for the dental profession, not only in New York State, but in the United States, because of the far-reaching effect of the law recognizing dentistry as a profession and the enactment of rules and regulations for the government of the profession and the protection of the public. The law provided for the organization of a board of censors for the examination of candidates to test their fitness to practice dentistry. The value of this provision of the law was soon recognized by other states. It may also be said that the law of 1868 regulating the practice of dentistry has been the pattern generally used by the other states in this country, as well as many foreign countries, in the framing of regulations to govern dentistry. From the time this first law was passed until the present, dental legislation in New York State has always been one step in advance of that of other states. At this writing, the requirements for admission to practice in New York are higher than those required in any other state or country.

Following is a list of the 1934 officers of the Dental Society of the State of New York: President, Augustus N. Neuber, Schenectady; president-elect, C. M. McNeely, Brooklyn; vice-president, D. A. Sniffen, White Plains; secretary, A. P. Burkhardt, Auburn; treasurer, George H. Butler, Skaneateles.

The New York State Board of Dental Examiners for 1934 are as follows: Harvey J. Burkhardt, president, Rochester; Alfred Walker, New York City; Leon R. Atwood, Brooklyn; H. G. Kittell, Troy; E. B. Rhinehart, Schenectady; Charles F. Boecker, New York City; James T. Ivory, Binghamton; J. G. Roberts, Buffalo; D. A. Sniffen, White Plains; Minor J. Terry, secretary, Albany.

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ROCHESTER STUDY CLUB

During the last twenty-five years, great strides have been made in the appreciation of the value of research work in various directions. This has resulted in dentistry being divided into various specialties, with the result that study clubs have been organized in many of the large centers of population. The work of these clubs has been exceedingly valuable, both from the research point of view, and from the opportunity it affords its members for an exchange of ideas and opinions. A Dental Study Club was organized in Rochester some years ago and at the present time is highly regarded for the splendid progress and the excellent results obtained by the various activities which have been carried on by the club.

ECONOMICS CLUB

For some years, the business side of medicine and dentistry has received much consideration, particularly by the younger men of the profession, with the result that dental economics clubs have been organized for the purpose of discussing the business problems of the profession.

A Dental Economics Club has been in existence in Rochester for some years. Many interesting meetings have been held, where papers and discussions were heard on subjects relating to office management, bookkeeping, collections of accounts and fees. Considerable value has been attached to the activities of conducting the business of a dental practice.

DENTISTS IN ROCHESTER: 1869-1934

Following is a list of dentists in practice in Rochester in 1869: William Arnold; S. C. Crittenden; G. C. Decker; Charles H. Ellsworth; H. N. Fenn; Fowler & Miller; Frank French; C. & W. Hetzel; H. N. Lowe; Philander Macy; George Matthews; C. Mills; A. A. Morgan; M. A. Morgan; D. J. Peer; Proctor & Allen; J. Requa; B. F. Schuyler; R. H. Stillson; L. D. Walter; H. C. Wanzer & Son; S. G. Wood.

There were probably a number of others located here permanently and some itinerant dentists, whose names were not recorded at that time. Among those mentioned, there were several of outstanding ability as practitioners. Several of the men on this list were particularly interested in the organiza-
tion of the profession and in the enforcement of the law. Of this number Dr. Frank French was probably the best known. Dr. French was elected a member of the first Board of Censors and served during the life of that board until its place was taken by the present Board of Dental Examiners. Dr. French served as secretary of the Board of Censors and Board of Examiners until his death in 1908. Dr. French was regarded as one of the most expert practitioners of dentistry in his day. He had unusual ability as is evidenced by his holding the office of secretary for so many years.

A number of men whose names were mentioned in this list as practicing here in 1869 rendered excellent and noteworthy service to the profession and the people. They were men of distinguished character and ability and were held in respect in this community. The late Dr. Henry S. Miller was particularly interested in the early history of dentistry and his historical contributions are authentic and highly regarded. Dr. Miller was an able practitioner and a man of character and intelligence.

During the last fifty years, a number of dentists in Rochester were prominent in various progressive enterprises for the advancement of dentistry. Among this number was Dr. William W. Belcher, who was much interested in oral hygiene and children's dentistry. Dr. Belcher gave much of his time to matters connected with the organization and establishment of the first dental clinics in Rochester. During his latter years, he was the efficient editor of Oral Hygiene, one of the leading dental journals, particularly interested in children's dentistry and the promotion of oral health activities.

Dr. Frank Sibley, who died in 1914, was energetic and enthusiastic in all matters relating to the advancement of dentistry. He was one of the best liked and most popular members of the profession.

Dr. Rudolph Hofheinz, who died in 1916, occupied a very important place in dental affairs not only in this city, but in the state and nation. Dr. Hofheinz was highly educated, with a brilliant mind, and he was particularly interested in research and scientific dentistry. One of the most progressive members of the profession, he was an operator of outstanding ability, keenly interested in the development of the latest methods of
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dental practice. He will probably be longest remembered by a wide circle of friends as a demonstrator and teacher in operative dentistry, for a number of years, at the dental school of the University of Buffalo. Outside of dentistry, Dr. Hofheinz was a devotee of music and art. He was highly cultured and a most agreeable entertainer and companion.

Dr. William W. Smith retired two years prior to his death in December, 1933, after sixty years of active practice. Dr. Smith practiced in Penn Yan prior to his coming to Rochester some forty years ago. He was always actively interested in matters relating to oral hygiene and the development of children’s dentistry. He was keenly interested in the organization of the dental dispensaries and spent considerable time in rendering free service in the first dental dispensary established here. He was past-president of the Dental Society of the State of New York and was honored and respected by all who were privileged to have known him.

Until his death in July, 1934, Dr. J. Edward Line’s long continued and invaluable service to the dental profession entitles him to special mention. Dr. Line at the time of his death was the oldest active practitioner of dentistry in this vicinity and, so far as our knowledge goes, in the State of New York. Dr. Line, from the moment of his entrance into the dental profession, took an active part in its organization and during all the years maintained an active interest in the affairs of the various societies to which he belonged. He was instrumental in the drafting of the first dental law regulating practice in the State of New York. He served as an officer of the Seventh District Dental Society, and the Dental Society of the State of New York for many years, where he rendered excellent and valuable service. In his early days Dr. Line became keenly interested in dental research and all matters of a scientific nature connected with the profession. Dr. Line was always regarded as one of the best educated men in the dental profession, with a broad and versatile mind. He rendered significant and important service in the various branches of dentistry—as editor, teacher and writer—and his skill as a dental operator is well known. Dr. Line served as librarian of the Seventh District Dental Society for many years and to him the society and the profession are largely indebted for the

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excellence of the service rendered by him in the establishment of the library of the Rochester Dental Dispensary. The writer desires to express his indebtedness and appreciation of Dr. J. Edward Luce for the valuable assistance which he freely gave, and for the satisfaction and privilege it was to have enjoyed his companionship and friendship.

To the dentists of Rochester, who were instrumental in the organization of the first dental clinic, there is due the credit for the far-reaching effect in calling the attention of the profession and the public to the value of early attention to the teeth. The pattern set here in the organization and maintenance of the clinic was followed in many other towns and cities throughout the land and in some places abroad.

At the present writing (1934), there are two hundred ninety-one dentists practicing in Rochester.

DENTAL EDUCATION AND LITERATURE

Up to 1834, and indeed for many years following, there were very few publications, either of books, pamphlets or essays on dental subjects. In this connection it is interesting to note that, in 1842, there was published in Rochester by M. Hayes, Printer, a small book entitled *A Guide to the Preservation of the Teeth*, by Woodland Owen, surgeon dentist. Its contents consist of chapters on Advice and Care of the Teeth; Value and Importance of the Teeth; Preservation of the Teeth; Scaling the Teeth; Diseases of the Teeth; Tooth-Ache; Extraction of the Teeth; Growth of the Teeth; and Restoring Lost Teeth. The name of Mr. Owen did not appear in any of the directories. He was very likely an itinerant dentist with an office at 113 Main Street, where he could be consulted from the “first Monday until the following Saturday in every month.” The little book is interesting and contains observations and suggestions that stamp the author as a man of rare intelligence and keen understanding of the subject.

With the organization of the first dental school in 1840, others were soon brought into being in various parts of the country. At the beginning the term of three or four months was all that was required to turn out a full-fledged graduate with the title of Doctor of Dental Surgery. A little later, several months were added to the course, but it was not until

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about 1880 that the course was increased to two terms of six months each. Since 1880 the course has been lengthened until now four academic years are required for graduation. For many years, there was no recognized educational standard required for entrance to a dental school. The growth of sentiment and the appreciation of the value of proper and extended dental teaching soon made itself manifest as dentistry progressed until at this time, two and three years of an Arts College Course are required for matriculation in most dental schools.

INCEPTION OF ROCHESTER DENTAL DISPENSARY

There has been much speculation about the reasons which prompted George Eastman to become interested in the dental problem. Every one who was privileged to be associated with, or know of, Mr. Eastman’s interest in various philanthropic enterprises soon became convinced that, prior to his decision to participate in any undertaking of this nature, a careful investigation and study was made by him to determine whether the project was worthwhile. Mr. Eastman was always ready and willing to receive information and advice, but when a final decision was reached it represented his own judgment with reference to the feasibility or value of the project. Without doubt the person to whom the greatest credit is due for first interesting Mr. Eastman in the dental clinics established by the Rochester Dental Society, and later in the founding and organization of the Rochester Dental Dispensary, was William Bausch, a warm friend and associate of Mr. Eastman in various public enterprises in this city. In a letter to Dr. D. B. Irwin, in 1919, Mr. Eastman said:

“What appealed to me in connection with the Dental Dispensary was that I concluded I could get more results for my money in that expenditure than in any other philanthropic scheme I had investigated. Several years’ experience with its operation leaves me still with that opinion...Money spent in the care of children’s teeth is one of the wisest expenditures that can be made.”

On June 18, 1928, he wrote the following to Mr. Cyrus H. K. Curtis of Philadelphia:

“My experience with the Dispensary here, of almost eleven
years, has convinced me that money spent in giving the children of the poor, good teeth, earns greater results per dollar spent in health, happiness and efficiency than if spent in any other way."

**Eastman's interest in dentistry**

In the book entitled, *George Eastman*, by Carl W. Acker-
man, published by Houghton Mifflin Company, in 1930, will be found the best history that has ever been published as to the establishment of the Rochester Dental Dispensary and Mr. Eastman's interest in children's dentistry. The writer is taking the liberty of quoting from this authoritative biography of Mr. Eastman as follows (pp. 385-387):

"Eastman's active interest in dentistry began in January, 1909, when he made his first contribution to the Rochester Dental Society. This was the beginning of a series of yearly payments which had no relationship, even in his own mind, with the evolution of the use of X-ray plates or film in dental practice or diagnosis. He had long since made it a definite policy not to mix business with philanthropy. 'East is East and West is West, and never the twain shall meet.' This was true of his business and his personal interests.

"In March, 1914, when his sixth yearly subscription to the society was due, Nelson Curtis, of Boston, was visiting him. In the course of their conversation, Mr. Eastman learned of the preventive work being done in that city by the Forsyth Institution. Without much ado, Curtis later obtained pamphlets from that infirmary and sent them to Rochester. During the rest of that year, Eastman reflected upon the possibilities of a similar project in Rochester without revealing his thoughts to anyone. He visited also the Forsyth Infirmary without disclosing his identity.

**Eastman's proposal**

"In the spring of 1915, William Bausch, knowing of Eastman's interest in the local dental society, submitted tentative proposals for the establishment of dental clinics throughout the city which had been put forth by several dentists and citizens. For two or three months, there was an exchange of ideas until Eastman's own views were crystallized, and he wrote Bausch, July 6, 1915. This, he informed..."
Mussolini and Dr. Burkhart inspecting dental equipment at the dedication of the Eastman Dental Clinic at Rome.
Dr. Harvey J. Burkhart, was the beginning of the Rochester Dental Dispensary.

"Concerning the Dental Hospital project, I should not care to have anything to do with this affair unless a scheme can be devised which will cover the whole field and do the work thoroughly and completely, and in the best manner. Basing my opinion on all the information that has come to me up to the present time, I do not think that the work of treating the children's teeth, outside of the prophylactic work to be done by the hygienists, can be satisfactorily done and supervised at centers distributed over the city, and I do not think that I would be interested in any scheme which would involve this plan of procedure. If, however, it is decided to adopt the other plan I make you the following proposition:

"1. You to form a corporation to be managed by say nine or more trustees, the trustees to be men who will be interested in carrying on the work of such an institution.

"2. The trustees to provide for the raising of a sum of not less than ten thousand dollars yearly, for five years.

"3. The city of Rochester to agree to pay the hospital the cost of the services of a sufficient number of dental hygienists, and material, to clean and examine the teeth of the school children twice a year; these hygienists to be under the control and direction of the trustees.

"If the above can be brought about, I will build and equip a suitable central building and contribute the sum of thirty thousand dollars for five years. At the end of the five years, if the institution is operating successfully and performing its mission satisfactorily, I will endow it with the sum of seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars, reserving the right to make any conditions at that time which I may consider advisable.

"If it is decided that forty thousand dollars per year is not enough for the running expenses of the hospital, I will furnish the same proportion of any additional sum that is required for five years.

"It is contemplated, of course, that there will be a nominal charge for the work done at the hospital and that suitable limits will be fixed defining the persons who are entitled to the benefit of this nominal charge."
TRUSTEES ORGANIZED BY WILLIAM BAUSCH

Mr. Bausch was highly successful in meeting Mr. Eastman's requirements for the establishment of the Dispensary. Through Mr. Bausch's efforts, the board of trustees of the Dispensary was organized with a membership of fifteen business men each of whom contributed one thousand dollars a year towards the expense of maintaining the institution and which they continued to do for several years. The city of Rochester contributed twenty thousand dollars a year for doing the prophylactic work in the schools and has agreed for the next five years to make an annual appropriation of thirty thousand dollars a year for this work.

Ackerman continues as follows (pp. 388-391):

"Events then followed in rapid succession. On July 31, the Rochester Board of Education approved the plan for taking care of the teeth of the school children and Eastman left on a trip to the Pacific Coast.

"Returning in the fall... Eastman was happy, as usual, to be back home, and to find the Dispensary project under way.

DIRECTOR CHOSEN FOR DISPENSARY

"From the beginning Eastman felt that the successes of the Dispensary would depend largely upon the director. At that time Dr. Burkhart was mayor of the neighboring city of Batavia, New York. Eastman had looked upon him from the beginning as the ideal head for the institution, but also from the beginning he declined to exert any influence with the board of directors in the selection. Although he was in communication with the neighboring mayor throughout the negotiations, he wrote Dr. Burkhart, November 12, 1915, that he did not show the directors any of his letters and had not replied to his recent communications, 'because I did not want to interfere in the selection,' but 'I am very glad that you are coming to Rochester and I have great faith that you will make a thorough success of the institution.' A few days before, Eastman had written Bausch: 'I understand the committee have selected Dr. Burkhart and I believe they have made the best possible choice. Under his direction and the guidance of the board I believe that the Dispensary will fulfill all of our most sanguine anticipations.'

Burkhart, Harvey J.; Centennial History of Dentistry in Rochester. (1934)
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ROCHESTER DISPENSARY OPENED

"On October 15, 1917, the Dispensary was opened. The dental department was provided with thirty-seven operating units, especially designed, and provision was made for thirty-one additional units. And, incidentally, the construction of these units, largely designed for this institution, served as models for the manufacture of units which in succeeding years were in use in practically all of the leading dental offices in the United States. The department of orthodontia, for straightening crooked teeth, was one of the most important departments, while the work of cleaning the teeth of children in the schools was done by squads of licensed dentists and dental hygienists, the latter being trained in the school for dental hygienists, conducted by the Dispensary. The establishment of this school opened a new vocation for young women. The prophylactic squads were provided with portable equipment consisting of chairs, engines, instruments, sterilizers, etc., and, under careful and strict supervision, they made the rounds of the schools twice a year. A school lecturer was employed by the Dispensary to deliver illustrated lantern-slide lectures on oral hygiene and other health subjects. After the teeth were cleaned, a survey was made of the mouth or pathological conditions were observed, and if additional dental work was necessary, duplicate records were made, one for the teacher and parent and the other for the Dispensary, so that all these cases could be followed up.

DISSEMINATION OF FACTS

"Thousands of pamphlets on the value of clean teeth, printed in English, Italian, Yiddish, and Polish, were sent to parents as a means of education to induce them to take their babies to the Dispensary as soon as the first tooth appeared.

2Author’s Note: Thirty of the unit equipments of the dental infirmaries were given by Mrs. Adeline Ritter Shumway and Mrs. Laura Ritter Brown, in memory of their father, the late Frank Ritter. William Bausch, president of the board of trustees, provided the furnishings and decorations of the children’s room and Mrs. Rudolph H. Hoheim, in memory of her husband, the late Dr. Rudolph H. Hoheim, a member of the first board of trustees, presented the furnishings and equipment of the research laboratory. (Annual Report of the Rochester Dental Dispensary, 1928.)
By follow-up methods it was planned to retain the child as a patient until the age of sixteen. A few years' experience proved the wisdom of this procedure, which resulted eventually in the standardization of filling materials and methods of procedure of tremendous benefit to future generations. In the department of orthodontia, for example, not only were the appearance and comfort of many children greatly improved, but improvements in speech were obtained by widening the arch, and frequently children who were below normal mentally were helped by the removal of nerve pressure usually found in a crowded jaw.

EASTMAN ENDOWMENT

At the time of the organization of the Rochester Dental Dispensary, Mr. Eastman specified that if the work of the Dispensary was satisfactory at the end of five years, he would endow it with a sum of seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars. So well was Mr. Eastman satisfied with the work that before the end of three years, he not only contributed seven hundred fifty thousand dollars for endowment purposes, but an additional sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars. Again, in 1920, Mr. Eastman contributed one thousand shares of Eastman Kodak common stock and again, after his death, one million, which brings the total endowment of the Rochester Dental Dispensary from Mr. Eastman to approximately three million dollars.

Ackerman says (pp. 400-402):

"By this time inquiries and visitors were coming from all parts of the world. Among the many interested parties was Julius Rosenwald of Chicago, who had sponsored a survey by Dr. Michael M. Davis, of the American Hospital Association Service Bureau.

"I truly hope that you will have this report printed for distribution," Eastman wrote him August 15, 1921. 'It seems to me that the report is admirable in every way, and if made public will perform a very valuable function in crystallizing the ideas of people interested in the development of dentistry for the masses. I agree absolutely with the conclusion of Dr. Davis with one exception hereafter referred to, and, as before
Burkhart, Harvey J.; Centennial History of Dentistry in Rochester. (1934)
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indicated, I think the publication will help materially in directing future efforts along practical and efficient lines.

CENTRALIZED CLINIC PREFERRED

"There is only one thing that I wish he had included, and that is the reason for our preferring the centralized clinic as against the separate clinics, recommended by some of the local people interested in the proposition, viz., difficulty of proper supervision.

"For your information, I will say that the question as to whether we would have separate clinics or one centralized institution was very carefully gone into before the Dispensary was built, and I finally declined to have anything to do with the enterprise if separate school clinics were to be established.

The reason for this was that it is impossible to properly supervise small clinics. It is necessary to have as operators young, immature dentists who cannot be allowed to work without very close supervision. No clinic, therefore, should be smaller than will warrant the employment of a first-class supervisor on the spot. Dr. Burkhart's experience in running the Dispensary has shown the wisdom of our selection of a central clinic. Such supervision cannot be given by anyone travelling from one school to another.

"There is an advantage of the centralized class which should not be overlooked, and that is the benefit of it upon the young dental graduates as a post-graduate course. As you doubtless know, the dental schools of this country are pretty much in the same condition as the medical schools were when the Flexner survey was made. The graduates turned out are lamentably lacking in knowledge and technique and need a post-graduate training before they go into general practice.

"As to supervisors, one of the most difficult problems in any scheme of extensive dental work is to get men who are competent to supervise, almost all of the competent men having practices of their own that enable them to earn vastly more than any salary that a philanthropic institution can pay.

"Dr. Davis' report in my opinion ranks with the Flexner survey, above mentioned, in the clarity of insight into the subject and wisdom of his recommendations. I congratulate
TREATMENTS BY THE DISPENSARY

"During succeeding years the work and influence of the Dispensary increased until nearly every child in the city under sixteen, whose parents were unable to provide for preventive dentistry for their own children, had come under the care of an institution, which, in addition to its direct services, has succeeded in abolishing in the child's mind the association of dentistry with pain and fear. To the children of Rochester, dentistry is akin to play. They frolic to and from the institution as if they were on an outing."

Up to January 1, 1934, they have made 1,153,310 visits to the Dispensary. In addition, 1,505,707 prophylactic treatments have been given in the schools. Under these circumstances it is not surprising that Mr. Eastman's enthusiasm should have remained keyed to the heights of the children.

TONSIL-ADENOID CLINICS

Ackerman says (pp. 394-397): "In the meantime, plans were under way for an extensive tonsil-adenoid clinic, beginning July 26, 1920, when, four days before the opening, Eastman wrote William Bausch:

"I am anxious that the Dental Dispensary shall have plenty of money to operate its hospital for nose and throat work and especially to increase the amount of orthodontia work, and therefore I make this proposition:

"I will turn over to the Dispensary one thousand shares of Kodak common stock, the income therefrom to be used as far as may be necessary for the above purposes, providing that the contributing members of the board of directors will renew their subscriptions for another five years and that the vacancies on the board will be filled by the election of contributing members.

"I know that the members of the board of directors are greatly interested in this work and this will insure having all the money necessary available for the additional work which is to be undertaken."
“There will be only one other condition accompanying the above gift which I propose to make, and that is that children of employees of the Kodak Company shall have a more liberal rate of family earnings per capita specified to qualify them for treatment at the Dispensary, which will enable them to more generally participate in all the work of the institution.”

ORAL SURGICAL DEPARTMENT

“At the time of the organization of the Rochester Dental Dispensary, it was recognized that there would be need of an oral surgical department to care for certain cases not within the strict scope of dentistry. These cases were those in which there was some correctible condition that interfered with proper dental development, as cleft palate, harelip, and most notably, defective nasal respiration caused by enlarged tonsils and adenoids. If satisfactory results were to be obtained from a dental point of view, particularly as regards orthodontia, it was of paramount importance that the nose, throat and mouth be put into a normal and functioning condition as possible before the attempt was made to straighten the teeth.

“After the child had had the necessary repair done to diseased teeth, he was examined for nose, throat, and mouth defects before being passed on to the orthodontists. It was found that an astonishingly large number of children had hypertrophied tonsils and adenoids to such a degree as to cut down nasal respiration to a point that very markedly interfered with the normal development of the jaws, and with consequent narrowing of the upper arch and marked disturbance of normal tooth eruption.

“The surgical department of the Dispensary was therefore created with a capacity of eighteen beds, which is sufficient to care for the cases requiring surgical care from amongst the regular dental cases coming to the Dispensary. By operating three days a week, this department was able to keep pace with the tonsil and adenoid cases which had a direct bearing in dental development. It was not the original intention to remove the tonsils and adenoids from all the Dispensary children in whom such an operation was indicated by symptoms other than those having a direct bearing on the dental work.
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INTENSIVE ORAL SURGERY CLINICS

"During the routine examination of Dispensary cases, many were found to have diseased tonsils which were not strictly obstructive, but which were detrimental to the children's general health, and which were being neglected by the families of the children. It took very little inquiry to ascertain that this condition was prevalent, not alone amongst the regular attendants at the Dispensary, but also amongst many children in the city and surrounding county with whom it was possible to get in touch.

"For several years past the general hospitals of the city had been regularly conducting clinics for tonsil and adenoid removal, and in this way had disposed of a considerable number of cases. However, these comparatively small clinics became so crowded that their waiting lists had been filled up months in advance.

"Knowledge, therefore, of the existence of a large and constantly increasing number of children in Rochester and surrounding rural districts suffering from the effects of enlarged and diseased tonsils and adenoids was the principal factor leading to the decision to hold the emergency clinic. Records of children treated in the Dental Dispensary, supplemented by reports from the schools, inspectors, and nurses under the jurisdiction of the Health Bureau, agents of various child welfare organizations, and from community nurses in the rural districts, as well as the testimony of physicians and surgeons, indicated that the number of operable cases had reached an alarming total. This accumulation was due, it was believed, to the following causes: Shortage of doctors in private and hospital practice, due to the World War emergency; inability of hospitals and dispensaries since the war emergency to catch up with the accumulation of cases; ignorance and indifference on the part of parents both as to symptoms and ill-effects of adenoids and diseased tonsils, and the importance of having them removed early in the life of the child; financial inability of families of limited means to pay the fee charged by the regular practitioner.

"These conditions caused Eastman and Dr. Burkhart much concern. Both realized that, unless they could be removed or measurably improved, the regular dental work of
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the Dispensary along preventive lines would be largely negative in the case of children who, although having been released from the handicap of bad teeth and mouth conditions, were forced, through lack of necessary throat surgery, to study, work and grow up under the equally deplorable handicap of adenoids and diseased tonsils. It was recognized, also, that the accumulation of cases needing treatment had reached such proportions that there was little likelihood of getting the situation in hand unless emergency steps were taken. This led, after consultations and conferences with a number of leading physicians and surgeons, to the formulation of plans for the holding of an intensive clinic extending over a period of seven weeks with a definite schedule of two hundred operations a week, or a total of fourteen hundred operations. As a matter of record it may be stated that operations were performed on fourteen hundred seventy children, without a casualty.”

The far-reaching effect of the plan adopted in the conduct of these clinics, and particularly the operative procedure employed, has had much to do with the conduct of clinics in many other places throughout the world, and to a considerable extent the standardization of the operation for the removal of tonsils and adenoids. In connection with this subject it should be said that as a result of the research and investigation afforded in tonsil-adenoid work, it has resulted in the publication of a most interesting and illuminating work on this subject by Dr. Albert D. Kaiser of Rochester, who has been connected with the medical staff of the Rochester Dental Dispensary since its organization. Dr. Kaiser has devoted much time to investigation with reference to the effect of diseased tonsils and adenoids on the health of children and his observations and conclusions have received wide endorsement and commendation from experts in this specialty not only in this country but abroad.

The following winter an intensive tonsil clinic was organized through the efforts of Dr. George W. Goler, health officer; Dr. A. M. Johnson, assistant health officer; Dr. Edwin S. Ingersoll; and the staff of the Rochester Dental Dispensary and the various hospitals in Rochester. This clinic was conducted in Convention Hall Annex and paid for by Mr.
Eastman. In all, something approximating nine thousand tonsil-adenoid operations were performed in two months.

Mr. Eastman was greatly delighted with the results obtained in this clinic, as is evidenced by another quotation from Mr. Ackerman’s biography (p. 398):

“There was no doubt that Eastman’s heart was in this project. Through the cooperation of Brulatour and the large producers and distributors of motion pictures, Eastman obtained free use of leading comedies for the ‘kiddies.’ ‘Everything was made so attractive for the children last summer,’ he wrote Hiram Abrams, of United Artists’ Corporation, thanking him for one of Douglas Fairbanks’ pictures, ‘that I understand some of them have attempted to qualify for a repeat operation.’”

DENTAL HYGIENISTS

One of the conditions laid down by Mr. Eastman in the founding of the Rochester Dental Dispensary was that the city of Rochester should provide a sufficient sum of money to pay for the doing of the prophylactic work for the children in the schools of the city. Soon after the prophylactic work was started, it became evident that if proper service was to be rendered, other assistance than that of dental graduates was to be provided. It, therefore, became necessary to establish a school to train young women to do this work. Before the Dental Hygienists’ School was established, it became necessary to obtain legislation legalizing the practice of oral prophylaxis by young women. The School for Dental Hygienists of the Rochester Dental Dispensary was the first school to be established by legal authority. The school was established in 1916 and since that time over one thousand young women have been graduated for the purpose of rendering this service in schools, hospitals and industrial establishments.

At that time, this was regarded in the light of an experiment and many doubts were expressed about the wisdom of creating a new vocation for women. However, I am glad to say that the dental hygienist has demonstrated her usefulness and rendered a service of a very high order. Not only is she necessary to the proper rendering of prophylactic service, but she also has a distinct place as a health teacher in the schools.

Burkhart, Harvey J.; Centennial History of Dentistry in Rochester. (1934)
and in the instruction of parents and children in the matter of hygiene, nutrition and many other things. The dental hygienist is regarded as occupying the same relative position to the dentists that the medical nurses do to the physicians—as important and just as valuable. In the opinion of those who are familiar with the work of the dental hygienist, no proper health program can be successfully carried on without the assistance of properly educated and trained hygienists. The graduates of the School for Dental Hygienists of the Rochester Dental Dispensary have given a good account of themselves by the excellence of the service, which they have rendered to the United States Government, the Red Cross, industrial establishments, hospitals, public and private schools and to dentists in private practice.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY
UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

It will interest many to know that on a number of occasions during the first three years of the existence of the Rochester Dental Dispensary, Mr. Eastman inquired of the director if it would not be of advantage to the Dispensary to organize and conduct a school for the education of dentists in connection with the institution. The director replied on every occasion that he did not favor the establishment of a dental school in Rochester until a medical school had been organized, as in his opinion the theoretical subjects in a dental course could not be taught properly without the assistance of trained medical men and the advantages to be derived from the association and affiliation with a properly organized medical school.

One day in September, 1919, a story appeared in the newspapers to the effect that John D. Rockefeller had set aside the sum of one hundred million to be used for needed equipment and the betterment of medical education. The director of the Dental Dispensary, because of his knowledge of the lack of sufficient funds to provide for teaching and practical demonstration purposes in the various dental schools throughout the country, felt that if the attention of the General Education Board was called to the value and necessity for improvement in dental teaching that the board might set aside part of
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this sum to improve dental education. With this in mind, the
director communicated with Dr. Simon Flexner as follows:
"I was very much pleased to note by the newspapers last
week the splendid gift of Mr. Rockefeller for medical exten-
sion purposes. Not many particulars of the deed of the gift
were stated in the newspapers, but I am hoping that there is
some provision so that dental schools may be included.
"Here in the Rochester Dental Dispensary, where I am
employing about thirty or more dental graduates and where I
have a good opportunity to observe the product of many
dental schools, I feel the real need for an improvement in
dental teaching, and it seems to me that if dental departments
might be organized in strong medical colleges, it would very
greatly improve the output. If you are interested and care to
go into the matter, I shall be very glad to discuss it with you.
It would give me great pleasure to have you visit this institu-
tion sometime to observe the work which is being done, and
also become familiar with our scheme.
"In addition to the dental work which is being done here
for children, we have recently opened a hospital for nose and
throat work. The purpose of the founding of this institution
for children is primarily to try and prove out something in
preventive dentistry. There is close cooperation here in
Rochester between the medical and dental men and much
good work is being done. This institution is well equipped for
dental, oral, surgical and research work, and we shall be very
ready to receive suggestions for the enlargement and extension
of our activities. I am taking the liberty of enclosing a reprint
of an article which was published sometime ago, which will
give you some idea of our work."

Dr. Simon Flexner passed the director's letter on to Dr.
Abraham Flexner, Secretary of the General Education Board,
who, under date of November 3, 1919, replied as follows:
"Returning to town I find yours of September 30, regard-
ing Mr. Rockefeller's recent gift to the General Education
Board. There has been no meeting of the board since the gift
was made, so that as yet no definite policy has been decided
upon as to its use. The matter will probably be considered
at the next meeting of the board early in December."

It should be said in passing that the director of the Dis-
pensary informed Mr. Eastman of his purpose in communicating with the General Education Board. Mr. Eastman expressed great interest in the subject and around January 1, 1920, discussed informally with some members of the General Education Board the benefits that would accrue to dental education by a contribution from the fund set aside by Mr. Rockefeller for medical education.

In Mr. Ackerman's biography, Dr. Abraham Flexner is quoted as follows (p. 441):

"In the early days of 1920, Dr. Wallace Buttrick, president of our board, and I, made one of many trips for the purpose of inspecting Southern colleges and universities. In the train, as we were leaving New Orleans, I told him that I had been thinking about the New York City situation and had concluded that the only feasible way of accomplishing anything was to build outside the city. I suggested Rochester, and when Dr. Buttrick asked why, I replied that there was an excellent college there, the University of Rochester, headed by Dr. Rhees, an extremely able and sound man, and Mr. Eastman.

"Dr. Buttrick asked why he had thought of Mr. Eastman, and Dr. Flexner replied, 'He has given the city a dental dispensary, which, I am told, is a beautiful and efficient institution. It seems to me not unlikely that his interest might be extended to the medical field.'"

"Shortly thereafter, Dr. Rhees called at the New York offices of the General Education Board, where his conversation with Dr. Flexner naturally gravitated to the possibilities of interesting Mr. Eastman. Within a few days, Dr. Rhees submitted the suggestion to Mr. Eastman and asked if he would receive Dr. Flexner, who would personally outline his proposals."

On February 4, 1920, Dr. Flexner accompanied by Mr. Eastman and Dr. Rhees visited the Dental Dispensary for the purpose of inspecting its facilities and work. Dr. Flexner appeared to be impressed with what he saw and learned as is evidenced by his letter to the director on February 10, 1920:

"Please accept my thanks for your kind favor of the fifth containing a report of the work of your Dispensary. I shall be very happy to have any further data that you may send me."
"May I say that I was tremendously impressed with the beauty and efficiency of the Dispensary? I could hardly think of a greater public service than that which the Rochester Dental Dispensary is rendering to the children of today, and the men and women of the future."

During February, 1920, the General Education Board had the Rochester proposal under consideration. On March 2, 1920, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., visited the Rochester Dental Dispensary. Soon after, at a meeting of the General Education Board, it was decided to appropriate the sum of five million dollars for the establishment of a School of Medicine and Dentistry in Rochester on the condition that Mr. Eastman would duplicate this amount. After the General Education Board had taken favorable action, a public announcement was made at a dinner at the Genesee Valley Club on June 11, 1920, tendered by Mr. Eastman to the trustees of the University of Rochester, the Rochester Dental Dispensary, city officials and many leading citizens. On this occasion, Dr. Abraham Flexner traced the history of medical education in the United States and made this significant statement:

"In one very important respect the medical department of the University of Rochester will try to make a novel contribution to education. We have come to see in the last few years that dentistry is a branch of medicine of the same dignity and importance as pediatrics, obstetrics, gynecology, and any other specialty. Mr. Eastman has recognized its importance by establishing and endowing the Rochester Dental Dispensary to the support of which the city of Rochester and many of its citizens are already making important contributions. Meanwhile training in dentistry in this country has been less highly developed than training in medicine and surgery. The new school of medicine will, it is hoped, undertake to place training in dentistry on the same academic and scientific level as training in medicine and surgery, and to this end it will seek the cooperation of the trustees of the Dental Dispensary and the practicing dental profession in the city."

As an evidence of Mr. Eastman's interest and desires with reference to the organization of the School of Medicine and Dentistry, it is interesting to quote the letter appearing in Mr. Ackerman's book (pp. 392-395), which Mr. Eastman

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wrote to the trustees of the Rochester Dental Dispensary June 24, 1932:

"When the Dispensary was founded I did not foresee that it might have an opportunity to become a part of a great project for a higher grade of dental education than had before been attempted. Since the opening of the Dispensary, I have, on several occasions, discussed with our director, Dr. Burkhart, the growing necessity for such dental education, but neither of us could see clearly any way of bringing it about. When the plan to establish a great Medical School in connection with the University of Rochester came up I welcomed the opportunity which it furnished for an alliance between the Dispensary and the University which would accomplish the much desired object.

"I feel that an alliance of this sort can be effected in such a way that it will not interfere with the present work of the Dispensary and will, at the same time, enable it to accomplish a much larger work than we had in mind when it was founded. The carrying out of such an alliance will call for a very high degree of cooperation between the trustees of the Dispensary and the trustees of the University, and under present conditions I have no fear of any lack of such cooperation, but new conditions may arise which will render it more difficult. It is in view of this that I should like to put on record my wishes as far as they can be formulated.

"The main object in mind when the Dispensary was founded was the care of the teeth of children in Rochester and its vicinity. That work should not be neglected because of any enlargement of the scope and activities of the Dispensary and it is my wish that as long as the Dispensary is needed to serve that purpose it shall continue to perform that work and, if possible, extend it under such regulations as its trustees may deem wise and reasonable.

"In connection with the Medical School of the University the Dispensary can, by enlarging its scope and activities, serve as a clinic for practical instruction of students in dentistry. To accomplish that purpose it is my wish and request that the Dispensary shall cooperate with the University to the fullest extent possible during the life of such institutions in order that the Dispensary may furnish to the University a
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Clinic for the practical education of students in dentistry. The relations between the University and the Dispensary, in order to make the Dispensary of the greatest use possible as a clinic for dental instruction, should be, as far as the separate organization of the Dispensary will permit, the same as the relations between the University and the University hospital which will be established in connection with the Medical School of the University.

"If at any time the need of the Dispensary is done away with, or lessened to such an extent that the trustees think it advisable to maintain it as a separate institution, then I should like to have its property, real and personal, including its endowment, turned over to the University of Rochester, for the benefit primarily of dental education, but if it cannot be advantageously used for that purpose, then for the benefit of general medical education.

"Let me take this opportunity to express to you my warm appreciation of the interest that you have taken in the Dental Dispensary and of the willingness that you have shown to help the Dispensary undertake the added responsibilities which this new alliance entails."

Until the Rockefellers came into the local picture, Mr. Eastman had expressed little or no interest in a medical school. His experience with dental dispensary activities brought to his attention other phases of child health problems. During the summer of 1919, he discussed on various occasions with Dr. Albert D. Kaiser the establishment of an institution in close proximity to, and which would have direct connection with the Rochester Dental Dispensary, for the study and treatment of various children's diseases, having particularly in mind investigation and research with preventive methods always uppermost in his mind. The time seemed to be ripe for the carrying on of investigations of the nature referred to and appealed strongly to Mr. Eastman as well as to the highly esteemed Health Officer, Dr. George W. Goler. When the Rockefellers and the General Education Board expressed their willingness to become interested in the medical and dental problem in Rochester, Mr. Eastman came to the conclusion that investigations in the various child health problems might well be carried on as activities of the new

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medical school and it may be said in passing that the medical
school has done considerable work in the problems referred to.

SERVICES OF PRESIDENT RHEES

The writer desires to call attention to the valuable service
rendered by Dr. Rush Rhees, President of the University of
Rochester, in the various discussions with the Rockefeller
interests, which resulted in the establishment of the School of
Medicine and Dentistry. The writer also desires to express
his appreciation to Dr. Rhees for the interest he has always
displayed in the work of the Rochester Dental Dispensary
and for his advice, cooperation and sympathetic support in
endeavoring to carry out Mr. Eastman's wishes.

EASTMAN'S CONSTANT INTEREST

In the opinion of many of those closely associated with Mr.
Eastman since 1915 in his various philanthropic enterprises,
the accomplishments of the Rochester Dental Dispensary
interested him more than any other single activity. This is
evidenced by the close attention which he gave to the insti-
tution, by the frequent visits which he made to it and the
interest which he displayed in all of the details of its manage-
ment. With the passing of the years, Mr. Eastman's interest
in the Dispensary was quite as keen as at the beginning.
During the last year of his life and up to within a few weeks
of his passing, it was his custom to pay frequent visits to the
institution. On all of these occasions, he showed a sympa-
thetic interest in the children and the work of the various
departments of the Dispensary. His intelligent grasp and un-
derstanding of the various health problems were most extra-
ordinary. He was an ardent believer in all matters relating to
preventive medicine and dentistry, believing that prevention
of disease is of more importance than its treatment. He felt
that while relief and reparative work are necessary, the ult-
imate object sought is the development of methods and prac-
tices to prove the value of preventive medicine and dentistry.

ROCHESTER CLINIC INFLUENCE

It was always a great satisfaction and delight to Mr. East-
man to entertain persons who were interested in the work of
the Dental Dispensary. The late Julius Rosenwald of Chicago

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was one of his long-time friends and was a house guest on many occasions. In Mr. Ackerman’s book (p. 480), Mr. Rosenwald is quoted as follows:

“Eight years ago, I visited Rochester and Dr. Burkhart inoculated me with the idea of the tonsil and adenoid clinic and I established one in Chicago.”

Julius Rosenwald said after another visit to the Rochester Dental Dispensary: “Now he has given me a new inoculation and it concerns the dental clinic. The germ is working vigorously already, and I will start immediately to provide Chicago with a clinic such as has been founded in Rochester and which has received world-wide attention and commendation.”

It is interesting to note in this connection that as a result of Mr. Rosenwald’s investigations he was so favorably impressed with the work of the Rochester institution that, in 1931, he instructed the director of the Rochester Dental Dispensary to make an offer to the municipal authorities in Berlin of one million dollars to equip a children’s dental clinic to be conducted along the lines of the Rochester Dental Dispensary. Ackerman says (p. 481):

“A few days later, the Murry and Leonie Guggenheim Foundation announced that free dental clinics would be established in New York City. The original project involved an outlay of three million dollars, with an ultimate expenditure of ten times that sum.

“This will put dental clinics on the map in this country,” Eastman wrote Lord Riddell, “and I look for a blossoming out of the idea all over the country in the next few years.

“Julius Rosenwald spent a day with me last week and before he went away he announced his intention of tackling Chicago.

“The work, of course, ought to be done with Government money, but the rich men have got to get it started and show the right methods; and also demonstrate to the public the fact that greater returns in efficiency can be had from money spent in this way than from money spent in any other way.”

EASTMAN DENTAL CLINIC IN LONDON

A few years after the founding of the Rochester Dental Dispensary, Mr. Eastman was so greatly impressed with the
value of the service rendered that he expressed a desire to have a demonstration made of a similar nature in London. The project was discussed on a number of occasions with the director of the Dispensary who expressed cordial and sympathetic approval of the idea.

Mr. Eastman, on his numerous visits to London became concerned with the necessity for improving the condition of the mouths and the teeth of adults and children. Mr. Eastman, in discussing the matter with the director of the Dispensary in the summer of 1925, inquired of him if he thought London could be interested in the making of a demonstration similar to ours here at the Dental Dispensary. The director informed him of the interest which Lord Riddell of London had displayed in dental affairs and volunteered to discuss a proposal with him. Mr. Eastman instructed the director to make an offer of one million dollars for the erection and equipment of a children’s dental clinic in London, if Lord Riddell and his associates would guarantee maintenance and upkeep. The director at once communicated by letter to Lord Riddell, Mr. Eastman’s offer. The reply to the letter came by cable from Lord Riddell to Mr. Eastman asking him to at once send the director to London to discuss plans and details.

The director soon after proceeded to London where, after numerous conferences with Lord Riddell, Sir Albert Levy and the directors of the Royal Free Hospital, a contract was prepared for Mr. Eastman’s consideration, the details of which were discussed by Mr. Eastman and the director prior to Mr. Eastman’s leaving for Africa on a hunting trip. On the way to Africa, Mr. Eastman had conferences in Paris with Lord Riddell, president; Sir Albert Levy, treasurer; and other trustees of the Royal Free Hospital of London, after which the contract was signed by the parties mentioned.

The foundation stone of the Eastman Dental Clinic in London was laid by the Prince of Wales on April 30, 1929, in the presence of the Prime Minister, representatives of the Government, Frank B. Kellogg, who had recently resigned as Secretary of State, Dr. Burkhart, and their friends. It was a notable gathering and the remarks of His Royal Highness were exceedingly cordial and happy:

“Here, we shall have a compact institution capable of deal-
The Rochester Historical Society

eng with all aspects of dental healing, and devoted particularly to the preventive side for children and mothers, but I hope its ultimate influence will be even wider than that and that it will give a further impetus to the education of public opinion generally in dental matters. Our people must realize that if they want good health they must have good teeth, and if, as I anticipate and hope, the work of this clinic helps to this end it will have contributed very materially to the health and happiness of the whole nation.

"May I say a few words as to how the project came into being? Mr. George Eastman, some years ago, with customary generosity and public spirit, established in Rochester, in the State of New York, a clinic for the care of children's teeth. It was a very great success, so great that Mr. Eastman desired to establish a similar institution in London. Lord Riddell and Sir Albert Levy, of the Royal Free Hospital, learned of Mr. Eastman's readiness to build and equip a clinic, and joined forces to provide the additional sums required to maintain the clinic after it was built.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I am to be followed by the Prime Minister, and I am well content to leave the actual acknowledgment of the very great gift of this clinic to a far more eloquent speaker than myself, but there is just one more thing I would like to say. This gift and cooperation of one American citizen and the authorities of a great hospital in London furnishes one more instance, if one were needed, of the friendship which exists between the United States and this country. It is a friendship which springs from kinship of ideals as well as of blood, and it is well exemplified by this most generous and magnificent gift."

The Eastman Dental Clinic in London was formally dedicated on November 20, 1931, at which time the then American Ambassador, Hon. Charles E. Dawes, made the principal address.

Eastman Dental Clinic in Rome

Again in Mr. Ackerman's book (pp. 481-482) is found the following: "On June 4, following several conversations with his friend, Cesare Sofferetti, the Italian Consul in Rochester, Mr. Eastman wrote to him: 'You are at liberty to tell His
DENTISTRY IN ROCHESTER

Excellency, Nob. Giacomo DeMartino, Ambassador of H. M. King of Italy, in Washington about your interview with me concerning the proposed dental clinic, like the one now being built in London. If the Ambassador is interested in your scheme to get me to build it and would like to come to Rochester to see our Dental Dispensary here I would be delighted, and happy to entertain him and whomever he brings with him at my house.'

"Premier Benito Mussolini was quick to sense the value of such a project in Rome and cabled the Ambassador that the Italian Government would make the proposed Dental Dispensary a governmental institution. By August 22, the agreement was signed in Rochester by the Ambassador, Prof. Amedeo Perina, Special Representative of the Italian Government, and Mr. Eastman. As this accorded the Italian Government the distinction of being the first to officially recognize preventive dentistry, the document itself may have an added historic value."

"After consultation with you I make the following proposition," Eastman wrote, 'that I will furnish the Italian Government the equivalent of one million dollars to build and equip, on a suitable piece of ground in Rome, to be furnished by the Italian Government (to be approved by myself or my collaborator, Dr. Harvey J. Burkhart), a dental dispensary on the lines of the one in Rochester in relation to children, on the following conditions: That the Italian Government agrees to maintain the building and equipment and to furnish the funds to operate it in a first class manner permanently or so long as it is necessary to have such an institution in Rome.

"My object in making this contribution is to establish in Rome a demonstration center which will be competent to care for, and as far as possible rectify, the teeth of all the indigent children in the city of Rome up to the age of sixteen years. Whatever is done in the Dispensary for adults in the way of emergency work, such as extractions; it is not to be anything that will interfere with the full treatment of the children. It is not intended for primary education of dentists, but naturally it will serve as a post university dental school for the young dentists who are employed in the dispensary.
"I learn from our conversation that there are a sufficient number of young women and men who have been educated as physicians who can be employed to serve as dental specialists at the beginning: That if more of these specialists are required than can be obtained from this group that the Government will provide laws so that the dental nurses can be educated for this particular work at the Dispensary, the same as it is done here in Rochester.

"It is understood, of course, that the Government will appoint a suitable director of this institution, who will be selected solely for his ability for this purpose; the principal requirements being sympathy with, and understanding of, children; the ability to secure cooperation with the school authorities to carry on the work of cleaning and examining the teeth of the children in the various schools; and the ability to supervise and direct the young dentists and specialists. In doing this work he must be willing to subordinate his own immediate personal interests to the cause and devote such time as may be necessary to make the project a full success.

"The selection of the architect to be subject to my approval, as also the plans of the institution, which in general it is understood shall follow the lines of the Rochester Dispensary.

"It is understood the equipment shall be selected by me or Dr. Harvey J. Burkhart after consultation with the director selected by the government.

"It is understood that the operation of the Dispensary shall be on the lines of the Rochester institution for a period of say two years before any change is made without my approval or that of my collaborator, Dr. Burkhart.

"It is also understood that the Government will send the director or a full-time assistant to this country for a period of at least two months to familiarize himself with the operations of the Rochester Dental Dispensary, and, in addition, to visit certain dental centers as will be recommended by Dr. Burkhart.

"Any amount remaining from the million dollar fund after paying for the building and equipment shall be invested and the income therefrom devoted to the orthodontia department."
Exercises at the laying of the ground stone of the Eastman Dental Clinic at Stockholm. The Crown Prince is shown as the Master of Ceremonies, and Dr. Burkhart is speaking.
The Crown Prince of Sweden receiving Dr. and Mrs. Burkhart upon the occasion of the laying of the ground stone of the Eastman Dental Clinic in Stockholm.
Dentistry in Rochester

Other Eastman Dental Clinics

In 1930, applications were received from the cities of Stockholm and Paris for similar institutions, and from Brussels in 1931. Similar contracts to those of London and Rome with reference to the erection and maintenance of the clinics were signed, sites agreed upon, plans and specifications prepared and approved by Mr. Eastman prior to his death.

The ground stone in Stockholm was laid on April 30, 1933. The ceremony was most interesting and impressive, the Crown Prince officiating as master of ceremonies.

The foundation stone in Brussels was laid October 20, 1933, by Queen Elisabeth in the presence of a distinguished company of officials, diplomats and members of the dental profession.

Due to the necessity for making a change in sites for the Eastman Children's Clinic in Paris, changes in the original plans have been deemed advisable. It is expected that building operations will be started in Paris during the year 1935.

Scope of European Clinics

In making these contributions of one million dollars each for the five clinics in Europe, it should be understood that they were made in the nature of demonstrations and not with any thought that they would provide dental service for all of the children in these cities.

It should be noted that it was not the intention of Mr. Eastman by his part in these dispensaries to do anything more than to furnish local points in principal cities so far as he could devote funds for accomplishment of the work. It should also be noted that this enterprise is limited to work on teeth of children whose parents are unable to pay for dental treatment and bring them to the age of sixteen years with workable sets of teeth. It does not include the education of dentists except what they would incidentally get by this work after the completion of their dental education. In these clinics excellent opportunities are presented for post-graduate instruction and practice in children's dentistry.

Prior to his death, Mr. Eastman had under consideration the establishment of other children's dental clinics because of
his sincere belief that early attention to children’s teeth was of the first importance in any general health program. 

8EDITOR’S NOTE: Dr. Harvey J. Burkhart, author of the above chapter, Centennial History of Dentistry in Rochester, was born in Cleveland, Ohio, August 14, 1864; educated at Danville Seminary and Baltimore College of Dental Surgery where he was graduated, 1890, as a Doctor of Dental Surgery (first honors); he practiced dentistry in Batavia, New York, 1890-1916; mayor of Batavia, 1903-1904, 1915-1916; president of the Batavia board of education for fourteen years. He has been active in all branches of Masonry, Oddfellows and Order of Maccabees, and has passed through the principal chairs of each; also is a member of dental fraternity, Delta Sigma Delta. He is past president of the 8th District Dental Society, of the New York State Dental Society, and of the American Dental Society; is a member of the Rochester Academy of Medicine; member of the board of trustees of the American Dental Association; president of the New York State Board of Dental Examiners; Fellow of American College of Dentists; member of the board of trustees of the Rochester Public Library. He was president of the 4th International Dental Congress in St. Louis, 1904; and has been director and trustee of the Rochester Dental Dispensary since its beginning in 1917. He has served as the representative of George Eastman in planning and equipping European Dental Clinics in London, Rome, Brussels, Stockholm and Paris. In 1920, the University of Rochester awarded him the honorary degree of L.L.D. His European honors include the Order of Cavallerie, Rome, Italy, 1925; and Commander, Royal Order of Vasa (Stockholm). On August 14, 1934, he received notice of the award to him of the Jensen Prize, bestowed by the International Dental Federation, at a meeting held at Lake Como, Italy. The prize was established by Dr. Ernest Hesse, who founded the first dental clinic in Strassburg, Germany, in 1888, and is awarded in periods of two to five years to the person or institution which has rendered the most service in the field of oral hygiene for children. Formal award of the medal and diploma will be made to Dr. Burkhart in conjunction with the dedication of the Eastman Dental Clinic, in conjunction with International Dental Congress, Brussels, Belgium, 1935.

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