

# **THE CARE OF THE TEETH**

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The Care of the Teeth by Samuel A. Hopkins

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**SAMUEL A. HOPKINS**

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OF THE TEETH**



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BY  
SAMUEL A. HOPKINS, M. D., D. D. S.  
PROFESSOR OF THEORY AND PRACTICE OF DENTISTRY  
IN TUFTS COLLEGE DENTAL SCHOOL

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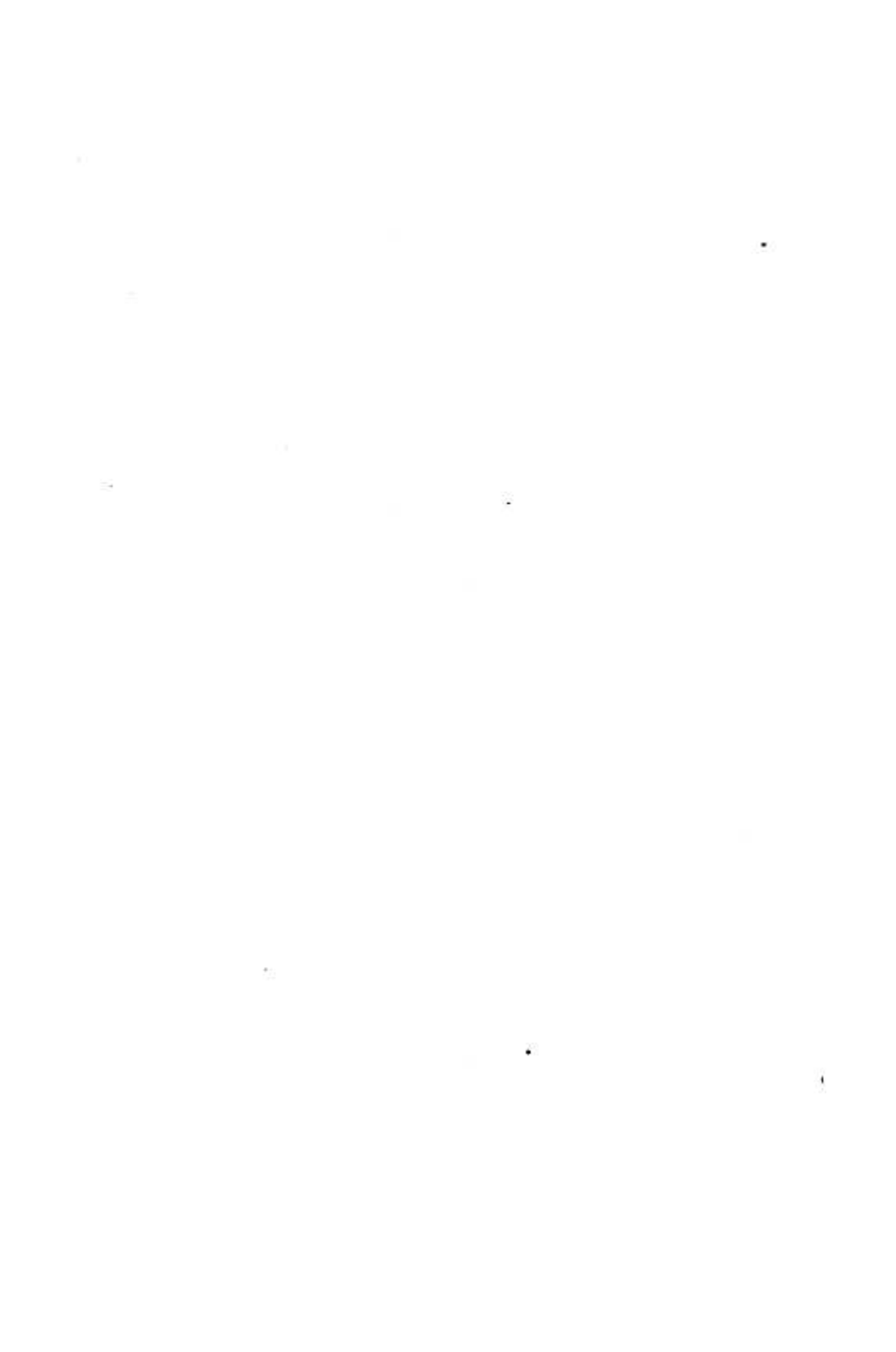
Dr. J. O. S. S.

TO  
MY MOTHER

WHO HAS INSPIRED EVERY NOBLE THOUGHT  
AND WORTHY ACTION OF MY LIFE  
THIS BOOK IS LOVINGLY DEDICATED

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## INTRODUCTION

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OBSERVATIONS made during an active practise of over twenty years have convinced the writer of the truth of two propositions: first, that a large proportion of dental operations are preventable, and, second, that a large proportion of the world's inhabitants are ignorant of how to prevent them. To mark out a simple course of prevention that may be useful to the dentist, to the physician, and to the individual is the object of this work. The Utopian age when dental operations shall become unnecessary has not been reached, but it is safe to say that in all ages and at all times the best interests of the practitioner will be found to be identical with the best interests of his patient.

In every profession we find that the highest aim of the noblest men is to prevent trouble. The highest type of lawyer is he that best succeeds in preventing litigation. The best physician is that one who has labored hardest to prevent the disease which he is called upon to treat, and the most useful dentist is not that one who is content to repair

damage and restore loss, but that one who labors unceasingly to prevent such disastrous conditions from occurring.

Because I believe that the decay of teeth may in a great measure be prevented I have written this little book. I trust that the suggestions it contains will be found practical and of easy application. I trust that they will commend themselves to the mothers of growing children, to physicians who have an opportunity to influence the lives of these little ones, and to the dentists in whose hands the responsibility for the care of the teeth finally reposes.