

**A HISTORY OF  
DENTAL AND ORAL  
SCIENCE IN AMERICA**

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**AMERICAN ACADEMY OF DENTAL SCIENCE**

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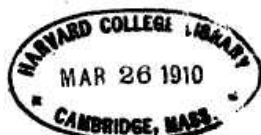
OF THE

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF DENTAL SCIENCE.

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SAMUEL S. WHITE.  
1876.

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Pres. C.W. Eliot

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## P R E F A C E.

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AT the monthly meeting, December, 1875, of the "American Academy of Dental Science," Dr. D. M. Parker, member of the Centennial Board of State Managers, and President of the Academy, in the Chair, it was voted unanimously that the Academy endeavor to present in some suitable manner the claims of Dentistry—or, more properly, of Oral Science—at the then coming Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia.

A Committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements, and weekly meetings were held from that time. In the month of February an arrangement was entered into with Mr. James E. Dexter, of New York, to collect and put into readable form such materials of historical value as could be obtained, in order to present an historical volume on American dentistry. In April an address was published in the dental periodicals calling upon the general profession for such assistance as they could render. It was as follows:

*"To the Dental Profession.*

"The American Academy of Dental Science, Boston, Mass., design presenting to the profession and the public, at the approaching Centennial, a view of American dentistry, past and present.

"One of the characteristics of this presentation will be, a history of the profession in this country for the past one hundred years. This work, being designed to become a standard of reference, will be comprehensive and complete in detail.

"To the end that this desirable result may be attained, the com-

mittee in charge respectfully request the aid of all dentists (and others) in furnishing information of every kind necessary to the work. Below will be found a list designed to afford a general idea of the kinds of information needed. On these and kindred subjects, and, indeed, on *any* subject connected with the profession, nothing will be regarded as too small or insignificant to be of value.

"If desired, any material received will be carefully preserved and returned to the sender after use. To facilitate this, as well as to insure credit being properly given, everything should be marked with the name and address of the sender.

"The Committee are persuaded that the importance of such a work to the profession can hardly be overrated. Several small works, able as far as they extend, have been put forth; but as yet nothing on the scale laid out for this work has appeared. The Committee feel assured, therefore, that they can rely on the hearty co-operation of the profession in furnishing the information above mentioned.

*"List of Subjects.*

"Biography, literature, societies, colleges, individuals, mechanical and operative dentistry, discoveries in any branch of the profession, materia medica, prominent events (with dates), prominent questions, inventions, patents, anecdotes, sayings, historical facts, obituaries, addresses, papers, published and unpublished works, etc., etc.

"Address communications and material to George T. Moffatt, M.D., No. 1, Hotel Boylston, Boston, Mass.; or to James E. Dexter, Care W. A. Bronson, M.D., No. 8 East 34th Street, New York city.

*"Advisory Committee.*

"Dr. A. L. Northrop, New York; Dr. W. W. Allport, Chicago; Dr. P. H. Austen, Baltimore; Dr. R. Arthur, Baltimore; Dr. J. H. McQuillen, Philadelphia; Dr. Edward Maynard, Washington; Dr. N. W. Kingsley, New York; Dr. J. Taft, Cincinnati; Dr. E. B. Gardette, Philadelphia; Dr. J. S. Knapp, New Orleans; Dr. J. W. White, Philadelphia; Dr. H. S. Chase, St. Louis; Dr. S. A. Bemis, Boston.



*"Local Committee.*

"Dr. J. L. Williams (Chairman), No. 1 Mt. Vernon Street, Boston; Dr. D. M. Parker, No. 132 Boylston Street, Boston; Dr. Joshua Tucker, Hotel Boylston, Boston; Dr. E. G. Tucker, Ashburton Place, Boston; Dr. T. H. Chandler, No. 222 Tremont Street, Boston; Dr. E. N. Harris, No. 597 Tremont Street, Boston; Dr. W. W. Codman, No. 33 Boylston Street, Boston; Dr. L. D. Shepard, Hotel Boylston, Boston; Dr. F. N. Seabury, Providence, R. I.; Dr. H. F. Bishop, Worcester, Mass.; Dr. Geo. T. Moffatt (Secretary of Committee), No. 1, Hotel Boylston, Boston, Mass."

In response to the above, historical material was, to some extent, voluntarily forwarded. The greatest portion of matter, however, ultimately came in response to personal requests by Mr. Dexter and the members of the committee; but the material thus collected has been, on the whole, small in amount. This has made much more difficult, and has greatly retarded, the preparation of the work; the comparatively early appearance of which is due chiefly to the untiring exertions of Mr. Dexter. Immediately upon his engagement he began with vigor to carry out his task. The short time he consumed in arranging and completing the work gives evidence of unremitting and well-directed labor.

The book has, perforce, been hastily written; but, as far as possible, no exertion has been spared to insure its accuracy. The committee has labored diligently and earnestly in the revision of Mr. Dexter's manuscript; and it is thought few errors of statement will be found. Expression of opinion by the writer or committee has been sought to be scrupulously avoided, and no unnecessary criticism of persons, books, or methods has been admitted; the effort being to make the work strictly historical, and in no sense didactic. That it contains all the facts cannot be hoped; but that most of its contents will be thought worthy of a place in history, that it will prove of interest to the present generation in enlightening them as to the work of their predecessors, and that it will be of value to the future

historian and essayist in directing him to sources of information, and as a preservative of the fast-vanishing facts of the earlier days of American dentistry, is fully believed.

Indulgence is asked for the extreme condensation it exhibits,—extending even to the exclusion of many things which might properly have their places in its pages, and to the according of but a passing notice to others of importance. This has been caused by the necessities of the time used,—little more than four months having been occupied on the work, from the inception of the enterprise to its completion in its present form.

To those gentlemen who have so cordially and promptly aided them with materials for the work, the committee and the writer desire to present their grateful acknowledgments. Particularly are they indebted to Drs. A. L. Northrop and W. A. Bronson, of New York city, for their generous permission to Mr. Dexter to use their libraries, and for other facilities afforded by them; and to Drs. W. C. Barrett, of Buffalo, and J. W. White, C. N. Peirce, and T. L. Buckingham, of Philadelphia, for much valuable matter.

It is sincerely hoped that the work, the result of our combined efforts, will meet the approbation of the profession; to whom, individually and collectively, it is cordially dedicated by

THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF DENTAL SCIENCE.

BOSTON, June, 1876.

# CONTENTS.

## INTRODUCTION.

Ancient Dentistry—Dentistry about 1776—First Dentist in America pp. 1-6

## THE FOUNDERS OF AMERICAN DENTISTRY.

Earliest Dentists—Joseph Lemaire—Whitelock—Isaac Greenwood—Clark Greenwood—Josiah Flagg—James Gardette—John Greenwood—Horace H. Hayden—Edward Hudson—John Randall—Leonard Koecker pp. 7-16

## MECHANICAL DENTISTRY.

### ARTIFICIAL TEETH.

Human Teeth—Animal Teeth—Hippopotamus Teeth—Elephant Ivory—Bone—Porcelain Teeth—First Manufacturers—Old Recipes—S. W. Stockton—James Alcock—Elias Wildman—S. S. White . . . pp. 17-26

### BASE PLATES.

Ivory and Bone—Gold—Silver—Platinum—Aluminum—Other Metals—Poured Tin—Cheoplasty—Gutta-Percha—Vulcanite—The Vulcanite Litigation—Collodion—Rose-Pearl—Celluloid—Porcelain . . . pp. 26-35

### ATTACHING ARTIFICIAL TEETH TO BASES.

Riveting—With Sulphur—Backing and Soldering—The Pin—Continuous Gum—Early Attempts—Gum Teeth—Thomas Harrison—John Allen—William M. Hunter—The Allen-Hunter Suit—Vulcanite—Poured Tin—Amalgam . . . . . pp. 35-40

### SECURING ARTIFICIAL DENTURES IN THE MOUTH.

Old Methods—Pivoting—Hollow and Channeled Pivots—Pivot Counter-drill—Pivot Files—Vulcanite—Oxychloride—Gold Filling—Clasps—Leaded Plates—Springs—Co-adaptation—Atmospheric Pressure—Harris's Air-Chamber—Riggs's Chambered Plate—Johnson's, Cleaveland's, Gilbert's Cavity Plates—Flagg's Lateral Cavity Plate—Dwinelle's Valve—Harnett's Engraved Suction Plate . . . . . pp. 40-46