

# **THE CARE OF THE TEETH**

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The Care of the Teeth by Charles A. Brackett

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**CHARLES A. BRACKETT**

**THE CARE  
OF THE TEETH**



**HARVARD HEALTH TALKS**

**THE CARE OF THE TEETH**

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## **THE CARE OF THE TEETH**





## THE CARE OF THE TEETH

**T**HE importance of this subject needs no argument. Symmetrical, sound, well-kept teeth are important contributions to the beauty of the human countenance. Their possession is rightly construed to mean cultivation and refinement. A person with nicely kept teeth may be expected to be of the kind fastidious in other particulars. Then in addition to the beauty of the teeth, may be urged their importance in the preparation of the food for digestion and assimilation. All other things being equal, the person who masticates his food thoroughly is the person likely to be blessed with the most comfortable and complete digestion, and the best nutrition.

While it is true that the prosthetic dentist is able to provide excellent sub-

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stitutes for the natural teeth when these have been lost, they are not like the teeth which nature makes. In a sense they are comparable to the artificial contrivances with which we replace natural limbs. They are an added care. In many mouths it is not possible to give them a good fixation; and their efficiency in mastication is much less than that of natural teeth.

An important circumstance with reference to the possession of good teeth is hereditary influence. The laws of transmission from parent to child which obtain in other particulars exercise their influence upon the characteristics of the teeth. Children that are born of parents with poor, soft, rapidly-decaying teeth are likely to inherit similar dental peculiarities. Conversely, children born of good parentage, whose teeth have been regular, little inclined to decay, and generally strong, are likely to possess teeth resembling those of their parents.