

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY DENTAL SCHOOL

DEAN'S OFFICE

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY BUILDING

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

Jan. 29, 1909.

Dr. Frederick S. McKay,
309 N. Tejon St.,
Colorado Springs, Colo.

Dear Doctor:-

I have just received your letter of the 27th inst and note the time fixed for the meeting is July 12, 13 and 14, and I shall try to work to it.

I am glad that you have made the arrangement for the examination of the school children. I have been reading very carefully Dr. Carl Ross's examination of the school children in Germany, Sweden, and contiguous countries, and his plan of doing this, and one to which the officials controlling the public schools seemed willing to work, was that he called certain classes at certain hours and these children came as classes to a place designated, were examined, and then went back to their school. In this way there was no disturbance practically in the school itself at any time, excepting to the certain classes. With the teachers stating the time at which a class could go to some certain place or room to be examined on some certain day, very little disturbance to the school was created, making it a very different matter from a number of men going into the school to make examinations. Possibly this suggestion may help you some.

Now in regard to mouth breathing and discoloration of teeth. I have once in a while gotten myself into some difficulty because of this statement. Sometime ago I made the statement to a German lady residing in northern Germany that their people were, so many of them, mouth breathers because of adenoids, was the reason that they had so

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much green stain upon their teeth. She resented it hotly and I told her to observe and inquire, and determine for herself. Sometime later she informed me that she found that I was correct in the matter. This came to my notice first a number of years ago, and by the way I have never written of it in anything published, by the discovery that stains were produced when certain of the micro-organisms habitually growing in the mouth were growing in conjunction with certain moulds, and the stain was free to spread in the gelatin upon which they grew, causing deep stains of the gelatin, while both of the organisms remained pure white. These moulds will grow in the mouth only in the night time when the mouth is open and air is freely admitted through it. They will not grow in closed receptacles, unless they are large, containing considerable amounts of air. Therefore for these stains to be produced there must generally be mouth breathing. This is my explanation in short, and why I asked this question.

These, however, you must remember are not the only stains found in the mouth. There are certain stains found that are purely developmental and some of the stains in these cases may be of that character.

Since writing you last, I have had one very marked case that seems similar to your description, come into the Infirmary to me. The child was just through shedding the temporary teeth; indeed there were two of them still hanging to the gums, which I obtained. The permanent teeth were mostly white enamel very nearly all over,

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while the central incisors particularly were very deeply stained, and a good deal of wasting of the white enamel had occurred. The case looked very badly indeed. Of course I was not able to obtain any permanent teeth as the child was entirely too young to permit of cutting away the crowns of any of these ugly teeth for the purpose of putting on artificial crowns. Otherwise I might have obtained some specimens from it. I shall grind specimens from the deciduous teeth and see what they are like. *This child was born and has lived in Chicago* They are very white. If possible, get me some specimens to grind before I come out to see you.

Very truly,

G.V.B. Black

G.V.B.