

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY DENTAL SCHOOL

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY BUILDING
CHICAGO ILLINOIS

DEAN'S OFFICE

Chicago, June 25, 1912.

Dr. F. C. McKay,
Colorado Springs, Colo.

Dear Dr. McKay:

I am very much grieved that I have not been able to answer your letters promptly. The fact is I have been down and out since February. I have not been to the School to do anything and much of the time I have not had my mail. It seems that everybody has conspired to keep me out from pretty much everything that I want to know. I did not get any of your mail until within a few days. I have read over most of it and I want to express my great satisfaction with the work you have done. The question of the influence of water used on the development of the teeth is so firmly fixed in the minds of you people that it is absolutely necessary to work it out to the bitter end and determine absolutely what there is in it. This I am glad to find you are doing and doing it effectually, and the result will show either that it is or it is not at the bottom of the difficulty, and that is what we want more than anything else.

Finally I shall probably have something to say and while I hardly think that the present is the time to do it, I will give you this hint, Look out continually in your work, as a mental proposition, for the influence of extraordinary sun light; study carefully well shaded localities as compared with those that have no shade from the sun. Do you know what freckles are and how they come about? Sunshine and excessive light seems to be a cause of freckles the world over, and the lesion in that case is coloring matter between the epithelial cells. The origin of enamel is from the epithelium and the

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lesions of the teeth and the lesions found in freckles are practically the same, hence we find those teeth most exposed to light are the most seriously affected, as the labial surfaces of the incisors, for instance, as compared with the lingual surfaces of the same teeth; also the first molars, although developed, mostly, synchronously with the incisors, are hidden away at the back of the mouth and are less affected by reason of position. If I am right in this, to know it, it will have to be tried out, such places as Colorado Springs will limit very much this difficulty by shading about their homes and the play grounds of the children. This, as to your work is now in progress, will have to be an afterthought. I would say don't let up in the least in the particular kind of work you are doing, only keep this hint in mind.

I am very sorry that I could not get out to the meeting of the Colorado Society, but I have not been in a physical condition to do so; in fact, I could not take part in the meeting if I were there. My general physical condition is excellent, but I am suffering a great deal of pain and have to keep myself propped about in various positions, in order to obtain reasonable comfort, and I find it impossible, under these conditions, to give close attention to any subject without the development of pain. Otherwise, aside from this one fact, I am very well, indeed.

I will go over what you have written as closely as I can and perhaps give you some notes on the influence of the sulphatesalts. an enormous amount of work has been done on that point in Germany, of

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which I have the statements in the german language; the mountain regions of Switzerland, Southern Germany, Sweden and of Norway have all been closely examined with that regard, including several hundred thousand children. In all of this work, there is no mention whatever of any such lesions as mottled teeth. I will write you again soon.

Your finding of other areas of mottled teeth in distant parts of the country speaks well for your activity.

There is one thing I want you to do for me, if you can. Send me another map with all of the susceptible areas that you have found, up to the present time, marked with red circles; where there is no town shown on the map mark the locality with circles all the same. These will help me very much in obtaining an intelligent view of the areas of susceptibility.

What you have said of coal miners makes me mad. Any set of men who will confine the families of their miners to such water, as you describe, ought to be hung, independent of any effect it may have on the teeth.

Yours truly,

G. W. Black