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Colorado Springs
May 26 - 1909

Dr. G. V. Black
Chicago Ill.

Dear Doctor Black.

Our use of the term "mottling" is just as you understand it, that is the white spotted appearance of the enamel. We have observed some teeth that were so much mottled, if I can use the term in that way that they were white all over. The defect in the enamel was uniform and there was no translucent enamel on such teeth at all.

Of course in some children the amount of mottling is very slight. So slight that it is hard to detect it. Many cases are mottled without being stained, but never stained without being mottled.

We have also found cases showing white spots which we considered of another character and differentiated sharply between such and our typical looking defect.

From your letter I judge that I failed to make clear just how we are conducting the examination. The children have not come to us. We have gone to them.

We have gone into the school rooms and from desk to desk taking the entire graded system of the city and all kinds of children just as we found them.

Our data taken in this way stands as follows. To date we have covered about 4000 children and of these positively from 87 to 90 % of native born have the failure of the cementing substance ^{in some degree} as you term the defect. I was quite sure that you would pronounce it such.

We have earnestly tried to ~~eliminate~~ eliminate all chance of error and have looked at each child just as though it were the only child being examined.

So, to answer your question I can say that there is nothing that would segregate those having the defect from those not having it, as you can see.

I presume that our data will fix an age limit, as to how old a child might be in coming here, before he could escape the defect and I presume we will find it to be somewhere about six or seven, which is of course only another way of saying that it depends upon the amount or progress of the development of the teeth of the individual. Now, can you tell me when you write where I can find any information or give it to me yourself briefly, regarding the nature of this cementing substance or its derivation. It is a structure not spoken of much in any dental literature with which I am familiar.

I have a call out for some more of the excised stained tooth crowns, but have nothing in sight. We have even visited the Coroner to get him to help us if the circumstances came right.

I am going to urge again that you get away from Chicago at the earliest possible date.

Yours Very Truly

Frederick S. McKay