
A Symposium on

PREVENTIVE
DENTISTRY

*With Specific Emphasis on Dental
Caries and Periodontal Diseases*

MUHLER AND HINE

... PREVENTIVE

DENTISTRY

.....

*With Specific Emphasis on Dental
Caries and Periodontal Diseases*

HENRY KIMPTON, LONDON

1956

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A Symposium on . . .

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PREFACE

IN RECENT years there has been a growing realization that in dentistry (and medicine) an overemphasis has been placed on the treatment of patients, and those problems dealing with maintenance of health and prevention of disease have not received appropriate attention. This recognition has resulted in an increased interest in many members of the dental profession who are desirous of reducing in every way possible the extension and complication of oral disease.

In dentistry preventive procedures still leave much to be desired. The concept of the importance of early diagnosis and proper treatment as a method of preventing the extension of disease is now well established, and there is more attention being given to rehabilitation of the oral structures of the patient. It is still true, however, that most of the dentist's time and energy are spent on the treatment of disease and in improving technics for treatment of disease. These are important, of course, but it is hoped that emphasis will continue to increase on studies designed to prevent the initiation and extension of oral disease and the maintenance of oral health.

To summarize current thinking on the subject of preventive dentistry, a symposium was organized in which a total of twenty-four people—recognized authorities in their fields—were asked to prepare short papers. These papers were then discussed by representatives of practically every dental school in this country, Eastman Dental Dispensary, The University of Chicago, Michigan State University, as well as representatives from the dental divisions of the Air Force, Navy, and United States Public Health Service.

These papers have been collected and edited and are presented in this volume with the hope that they will prove a useful document on the current status of opinion regarding the etiology of dental disease and perhaps serve as a stimulus for further work.

We wish to express our thanks to the many who contributed papers for the book. It is the editors' hope that this book will serve as a basis for further investigations, discussions, and conferences.

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