

A Brief History  
*of*  
Mouth Hygiene  
in Cleveland



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*By*

Harris R. C. Wilson, D. D. S.

Fellow A. P. H. A.

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## PREFACE

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Cleveland was one of the first large cities in America to establish Mouth Hygiene in the schools. The history of the development of the idea will be of interest perhaps more in the years to come than now, while so many of us who have known the work from its inception are still living.

The transition from a private philanthropy to a Public Health activity supported by common taxes is an interesting period in the life of any institution.

The "Marion School Experiment" is copied into this volume because it was one of the early pieces of work that made possible the Mouth Hygiene of today. We do not approve of many things done fifteen years ago, but they were done in good faith in the light of the knowledge of that day.

Questions are frequently asked relative to the legality of the activity; therefore, we quote liberally from the material presented to the Court during the hearing of the injunction suit.

In 1910 97% of the elementary public school pupils of Cleveland had defective teeth. In 1928 78.9% have defective teeth. This represents a real gain. The next ten years will witness an even greater gain if the Mouth Hygiene movement is developed as planned.

While many people have contributed to the Mouth Hygiene movement in Cleveland, we will not undertake to point out their part in the work except that we take this opportunity to record our appreciation of the eighteen years of faithful service and interest of our Secretary, Miss Eleanor Mathers. It is largely due to her constant effort that this volume is possible.

H. R. C. W.

## PURPOSE

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The Purpose of the Organization is here stated as it appears in the Articles of Incorporation No. 95277 of the Cleveland Mouth Hygiene Association, an incorporation not for profit:

“To educate the public in the hygienic value of healthy mouths and sound teeth; and to furnish instructions as to the best methods of securing the same; to prevent dental caries by oral prophylaxis and by the care and preservation of the temporary teeth; to investigate the cause and to study the prevention of dental caries and other oral diseases; to remedy so far as possible existing conditions of dental caries and other oral diseases; to establish and promulgate a high standard of dental asepsis; to establish, promote and maintain dispensaries; to advocate local, state and national legislation in the interest of public health; to acquire, lease or hold such real estate as shall be desirable for the accomplishment of the main purposes herein and to do all other things that are necessary and incidental for the promotion of public health and the proper conduct of the affairs of the organization.”