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EDITORIAL

We are in the first place very much indebted to our colleagues of the editorial staff of the „Tijdschrift voor Tandheelkunde” (Dutch Journal of Dentistry) for the courtesy of extending hospitality to us and offering this issue. When we made an appeal to the Chief Editor, our colleague Chr. Nord, he did not hesitate to leave this issue at the disposal of the F. D. I.'s Committee of Hygiene; and so the first step was made. We do not feel less grateful to Dr. Konrad Cohn and Dr. M. Roy who spontaneously complied with our „captatio benevolente” to make the edition of this issue in french and german effective, this displaying most conspicuously to what extent they were interested in the endeavours of the Hygiene Commission. Our cordial thanks to Messrs. Cohn, Nord and Roy and the expression of our gratitude to the editorial staff of the reviews.

Needless to state that the present appeal may be made but once. We trust the International Profession will back up the efforts of the F. D. I.'s Commission of Hygiene in future for the purpose of furthering oral hygiene. They will thus enable the members of the Commission to witness independently as to what searchers have investigated and to what degree they have been successful. We can start this working period with a hopeful view basing on the collaboration of our regular staff from whom we expect most excellent results.

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Starting this working period the Hygiene Commission at the same time adopts fresh methods taking up the scientific oral hygiene beside the social oral hygiene.

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During the session of the H. C. at Paris, as far back as 1923 it was suggested to found an international Institute for oral hygiene. Thus the task of the H. C. should be extended by the scientific research of mouth hygiene, which was applauded to enthusiastically. At Luxemburg, in 1924, this principle was accepted and approved of by the Executive Committee. Then, at Geneva it was decided upon to choose Paris as the seat for this Institute. The most prominent features of this resolution were the following:

1. The Institute shall have its seat in Paris.
2. In every respect, the Institute will be international.
3. The Institute has for its object the furthering of oral hygiene by means of scientific investigation.

Basing their efforts on these resolutions approved of by the E. C. the H. C. members took up their work and combined to their social work a propaganda for the application of a scientific research of mouth hygiene.

In the same way as they spread information on social hygiene basing themselves upon the results of investigations in the various affiliated countries, the result of the scientific researches of mouth hygiene might be useful when advising and propagating such ideas as they consider best.

The opportunity of summarizing and publishing the results as far as possible of the investigation of up-to-date questions should be available in this international journal for mouth hygiene. The thoughts developed by our collaborators and properly classified bring about a most profitable exchange of ideas, which will produce considerable effect in favour of solving said questions.

The International Institute for Dental Hygiene will thus be provided with a basis for their endeavours as soon as it will

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be definitely organized and, acting as a representative of the F. D. I.'s Committee of Hygiene, their members will be enabled to make suggestions as to which conclusions are to be drawn from the results of the researches.

This new method deserves a specification, indicating the provisional limits or their scheme of publication.

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Hygiene at large means to increase to the greatest extent the resistance of the individual and consequently of the collectivity. One of their main modalities is embodied in mouth hygiene. Whenever adequately applied the latter will act to maintain, if not to raise, the level of the resistance of any individual, with the aid of measures whereby the mouth will be imparted a vital importance for the physical resistance of the individual.

Similarly as Hygiene in general, so mouth hygiene in particular characterizes the principle of care for the people at large, for the collectivity of individuals. Thus considered the dental system has become the principal object of careful attention: this is in perfect accordance with the principles of the F. D. I.'s Hygiene Commission.

The foregoing does not mean that it is the purpose of this present review to exclude greater extension of mouth hygiene; on the contrary, anything that may promote enlightening in respect to mouth hygiene, in connection with or for the benefit of general welfare of the individual should be granted a prominent place in our columns.

To start with, however, we shall deal with the hygiene of the dental system at large.

If the contributions from our collaborators allow, our principal headings will comprize the following:

EDITORIAL. — CTD.**I. General and social hygiene of the mouth.**

1. Dental care at school.
2. Public dental care.
3. Occupational diseases.

Reports issued by the sub-committees of the Hygiene Commission, results of inquiries and anything connected with the task and the activities of the Hygiene Commission should be brought under this heading.

II. Scientific researches on mouth hygiene.

- a. the Problem of Caries.
 1. etiology
 2. prevention; prophylaxis.
- b. the Problem of Parodontosis. (periodontoclasia)
 1. etiology — diagnostics
 2. prevention — prophylaxis
 3. therapeutics.
- c. Focal infection: oral sepsis.

The international character of this periodical which is to appear in the four official languages of the F. D. I., and if read by all competent persons, will warrant the greatest effect.

The earnest workers armed with their working hypotheses, will find the opportunity to defend their standpoints and meet each other in this periodical. So they may conclude in how far their results may serve either to spread their general ideas on mouth hygiene or to solve these problems.

At the close of this article, a word of cordial gratitude should be addressed to the eminent representatives of the various countries who, often very enthusiastically, have promised us to pay regular tributes to our paper.

From the assistance of so proficient a staff, we expect the best of success.

J. S. BRUSKE.