

REMARKS TO INDIANA STATE  
DENTAL ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

Columbia Club  
Indianapolis

6:30 p.m.

May 16, 1950

I am deeply honored to be invited to have a part in the program of the Indiana State Dental Association at this annual convention.

I am sure that this meeting has brought great rewards in fellowship, in up-to-the-minute information, and, consequently, in a renewed inspiration to serve the people of Indiana.

The dental profession is ever gaining in scientific stature. That is as it should be.

Science is dynamic. It never stands still.

We must ever go forward in order to keep pace-- to hold our own.

In order to understand the problems of the School of Dentistry I have tried to familiarize myself with the personalities and the problems of dental education throughout America.

It has also been my privilege to see something of dental education abroad.

Out of that background I can attest to the fact that the record of the Hoosier dental profession is outstanding. I can honestly congratulate you and express my appreciation for the high level of professional skill you have attained and the quality of service which you give us all.

"The loss of teeth in a person of middle and advanced years is of great advantage.

"Since the loss limits the kind of food which may be eaten, the disappearing teeth are according to God-given plan and, therefore, benefit mankind."

So wrote one A. Tolver just two hundred years ago in a book which happens to be the oldest book in our Dental Library.

Dr. Tolver, and I grant him that degree freely, mentions the only filling material with which he was familiar--wax.

It is apparent that some of us have learned at least a little since Seventeen Fifty-Two.

And many of us have learned a great deal within our lifetimes. Since this is a twenty-fifth anniversary, it is well that we pause to take stock, to look around and see where we stand. Perhaps we might even push the curtains aside and peep into what the immediate future holds.

Technically this meeting marks a quarter century of progress; actually it recalls more than seventy years of service to the people of Indiana. It was in 1879 that a group of members of this Association organized the Indiana Dental College, with the full co-operation of the General Assembly which that year passed the first law governing the practice of dentistry in Indiana.



Only eight such schools had been established previously anywhere in the United States. The Association pioneered new fields of learning; made its own way through the tribulations of inventing techniques and equipment; through the tests at skill--or lack of it--with the hardy self-trained practitioner who did not believe in any newfangled way.

For thirty-seven years the Hunts, father and son, were deans of the Indiana Dental College. Phineas George Canning Hunt directed affairs for the first twenty years and from 1896 through 1914 George Edwin Hunt was dean. The experiences of these men through the period so often referred to as the gay eighties and nineties can be imagined rather than described. But they kept the school afloat--I can offer no greater tribute.

The impact of the first World War, the first mutterings from central Europe that the world was catching fire, reached the dean's office on almost the same day as did Frederick Rich Henshaw who for twenty-four years was to be at the helm. So many of you men knew Dr. Henshaw even better than I that I hesitate to outline his career. He did so many things. We recall his presidency of the American Association of Dental Schools, his work as a member of the State Board of Health and other organizations during the years that as a lifework was reaching professional status.

In 1918, while Dr. Henshaw changed his title temporarily to Lieutenant Colonel, on duty with the United States Army, Dr. A. H. House was acting dean.

Back from the war, Dr. Henshaw was dean that June 1, 1925, which we celebrate tonight. That day the General Assembly of the State of Indiana purchased the Indiana Dental College and it, in the legal magic of titles, became the Indiana University School of Dentistry. Dr. Henshaw carried on until his death in 1938. Since then three men have guided the affairs of our schools: Dr. G.D. Timmons until 1940, Dr. W.C. Crawford for five years to 1945, and, since 1945, the man responsible for so much of which I will speak, Dr. Maynard K. Hine.

This is an appropriate occasion for me to give public recognition to the skillful leadership of Dr. Hine. I find personal satisfaction and inspiration in my association with him. He is devoted far beyond the call of duty, highly skilled in his profession and consecrated to public and professional welfare. He is a worthy successor to the greatest of those who made remarkable contributions to the profession, and I am sure he will establish significant new records during his terms in office.

I cannot mention the work of Dean Hine without paying my personal and official tribute also to that group of faculty men--full time and part time--who have worked so hard to make success a reality. The quality of the students who go forth today from our School attests to the work these men have done. I am grateful.

I am grateful also for the generous Alumni support which the school has had and for the never-failing interest of the Indiana Dental Association. Without such backing the school would have faltered.



There has been a total enrichment of the practice of dentistry.

I speak particularly of course of our own school, but I include all those institutions that have lifted the dental profession to the heights of science instead of passive training in mechanics. All the achievements of these years bear witness to the development of biological and preventive measures without sacrificing the skill of the hand that has always been the hallmark of the good workman.

Someone has said that the Flexner study lifted medicine out of the proprietary field and raised the practice of medicine on to the strong foundation of science. Dentistry, led by a group of strong, far-seeing individuals, followed quickly. The act which made the School of Dentistry a part of Indiana University twenty-five years ago was a portion of a definite trend in education--a trend that soon became an established wave of action, limited in no way to medicine and dentistry but carrying along on its crest the training of students in many fields of endeavor.

There is a centrifugal force in education.

Those who practice in medicine, in dentistry, in law, in nursing, in journalism, in music, in art, in a score of pursuits have seen the value of University associations. Over the years--and not too many years at that--we have seen the change from the self-trained to the university-trained. There, still retaining the independence of the branch of science indicated, they dwell together in a happy relationship; lending a hand where needed, asking help and getting it.

I could spend some time in reciting specific examples of progress, but I am sure simple mention of some activities will indicate what is happening within a much larger program.

Clinics at the School of Dentistry have been enlarged, rearranged and reequipped. The entire building has been modernized and enlarged. This has meant more and better work.

In radiography, for example, the number of x-rays taken increased three hundred per cent last year.

Additional emphasis has been placed on graduate training and in-service continuation study. A nine-chair postgraduate clinic has been completed. This will make possible many short courses in a variety of subjects.

Our faculty men have given one hundred and ten programs for the profession during the year. Many symposia have been held.

Despite the heavy load that has become the regular teaching duty of our faculty members they have responded with their usual fine cooperation and diligence.

For the first time this Fall, training of Dental Hygienists will begin. A director has been appointed and will further the work in this most necessary field.

Space for Library materials has been doubled. The Library has been relocated on the first floor so that our study and research publications may be readily accessible.



We must not be complacent, however. Increased support and physical enlargement of the School of Dentistry, fine as we feel that to be, unfortunately is not a true picture of the place of education as a whole, either in the State or in the University.

We get less money per student in terms of dollar value than we did ten years ago. Stated in so-many thousands or so-many millions of dollars, the support of education is quite misleading. In some branches of the University new types and standards of training have raised dollar costs to a very high point. The medical services are in the highest bracket in this respect.

The professional schools, particularly, require the most careful consideration and backing from the administration. In terms of today's money that support demands a tremendous dollar outlay, obtainable under present appropriations only at the expense of underdevelopment in some other vital branches of the University.

Inadequate operating budget is not all!

Since 1945 the University has had only about one million dollars from state appropriations for permanent capital development. This figure is in contrast with an average of fifteen million for each of the other universities in the Big-Ten--except Purdue, which shares with us a similar lack.

In the entire 130 years of the University's existence the State has spent approximately ten million dollars for academic buildings at Bloomington, Indianapolis and the extension centers.

This same period has seen an extremely rapid increase in the demand for permanent facilities. As a result, there is less space per student in Indiana University than at any time in this century.

This is true even when we include the twenty-five percent of our instruction that is given in temporary structures, quonset huts and the like.

We have been able to build some dormitories but these have been financed without tax money through self-liquidating bond issues and they do not, of course, provide space for classrooms and laboratories.

This is part of a grave social problem. The members of the Legislature and the State Administration are quite concerned. As the problem increases the where and why-fores of taxes mount. If taxes become exorbitant, they may become the factor which destroy incentive and wreck our economy. All recognize this.

But I must say to you in all honesty that if the State is being bankrupt by the problems involving taxation, it is not being bankrupt by the money spent on education.

The lack of tax money involves the entire educational structure of the state. In terms of income the amount spent on elementary education in Indiana decreased in ten years from three and eight tenths per cent to two and four tenths per cent. That is but one example!

Perhaps I dwell too long on our support from the state; but that support is all tied in with everything that has been said here--which proves that your Trustees and Officers have protected the advance of the Dental School to the very limits of our means.

With what we have had, we have moved forward.

Comparative ratings are often subject to debate, but we take more than a little pride in the standing of our School of Dentistry, which is among the choice few at the very top in the nation.

Quickly, though, we must realize that such a position of



leadership carries with it great responsibility. Leadership is not just high rank in a recital of names of schools. It is a cherished position that must be fought for and improved. Education, whether in dentistry or in any other field, is pioneering--it is planning, it is execution of a plan based on facts. It is never being content.

Forces of great strength and devious reasoning would change the fundamental concepts of our American system of education. These forces are alert to find even the tiniest crevice in our foundations.

Beyond education, they would alter radically the methods and practices under which Dentistry, and all the other professions and services, have given America the highest health standards in the world.

If there have been mistakes, it is our responsibility to make corrections.

We must not be content tonight.

A quarter of a century is such a short time. The next twenty-five years can pass so quickly.

Will the reckoning in Nineteen Seventy-Five show an even more alert, active alumni group? Will our physical equipment be adequate? Will our students be the best of a chosen group? Will our faculty be teachers whose inspiration carries over into the day-by-day service to a community? Will our research be solving problems which tonight are only thoughts?

Will you and I be free to serve our generation to the limit of our ability?

On behalf of your University I pledge you a constant

effort to obtain the material support that will be effective. Beyond this, I pledge you, too, what is even more important-- the constant, unremitting demand that your responsibility be vital.

Thus working together, the limit of progress is progress itself,--unlimited--unhampered and, tonight, unimagined and unknown.