

The Angle Orthodontist

*A magazine established by the co-workers
of Edward H. Angle, in his memory. . . .*



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OCTOBER

Editorial Department

1940

The Wind Blows Through the Trees

THE WIND blows through the trees, the trees remain.

One wonders why, with the number of other useless studies undertaken in the name of orthodontic investigation, no one has troubled to tabulate the age of authors whose labors appear in the contemporary literature. I suspect that cross-sectional tables would favor the age of thirty to forty and that longitudinal individual records would reveal a relatively rapidly ascending curve in the author's early years and a gradual descent with scientific maturation.

Apollonia must have spent more than one amusing moment in her vigil over the fortunes of dentistry witnessing the frenzied gusts of eloquence and erudition which have whipped the branches of orthodontic science, tempests that stirred the leaves and passed on to spend their fury in desert wastes or waves at sea.

A few years ago we heard much about the ruthless destruction of the roots of teeth by the ribbon arch until the sobering judgment of carefully controlled investigations and a more penetrating view into the predisposing and active causes of root resorption came into common knowledge. Many a bough was bent and twig snapped before the storm abated. We have quivered in the blast of oratory on "vice-like appliances" when the dogmatism of ignorance or the enthusiasm of inexperience has failed to recognize that the generation of power carries the responsibility of intelligent expenditure of the forces invoked. Yet the rewards of effort, expended in mastering the knowledge and exactitude of technic demanded in administer-

ing these forces, have remained as mute evidence when the howling of the wind has died away.

A little more than a year ago an investigation was published in *Deutsche Zahn-Mund-und Kieferheilkunde* reporting the effect of ligatures upon the gingival tissues of dogs. If the authors' conclusions were taken without reservation, the clinician might be led to abandon this useful instrument in tooth movement. The weight of this study was not measured against the vast clinical evidence of patients treated years ago nor had the relative damage been appraised and compared with the benefits received.

One would not wish to curb the zest for investigation in new fields nor the burning fire for expression, but when this flame is brightest or its light is reflected upon the printed page, both author and reader may well give consideration to the methods, data and clinical testing of the conclusions, for the wind blows through the trees, the trees remain.

H. J. N.

Society Proceedings

Chicago Association of Orthodontists

Dr. Leland Johnson, President

Dr. Howard E. Strange, Secretary-Treasurer

September 30, 1940, Palmer House, Chicago, Illinois

"Growth Theory and Orthodontic Practice," Dr. Wilton M. Krogman
Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago. (Published in this
issue of *THE ANGLE ORTHODONTIST*.)

Announcement of Meetings

Chicago Association of Orthodontists

The regular meeting of the Chicago Association of Orthodontists will be held Monday, November 25, at 6:30 P.M. in the Illinois Room of the Palmer House. Dr. Joseph P. Weinmann, Assistant Professor of Dental Pathology and Research in Histopathology of the Chicago College of Dental Surgery will speak on "Eruption, Mesial Drift and Growth of Jaws," and Dr. Carl Breitner, School of Dental and Oral Surgery, Columbia University, New York will speak on "Bone Changes Resulting from Experimental Orthodontic Treatment."

HOWARD E. STRANGE, *Secretary*

Chicago Dental Society

The 1941 Mid-winter Meeting of the Chicago Dental Society will be held February 17-20 inclusive at the Stevens Hotel, Chicago. Preliminary programs of the meeting will be distributed to all members of the American Dental Association who attended the 1940 meeting as well as all members in Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Iowa, Ohio, Indiana and St. Louis, Missouri. The Chicago Dental Society will be glad to furnish the program to others upon request.

LEO W. KRAMER, *Secretary*

The Central Section of the American Association of Orthodontists

A luncheon meeting of the Central Section of the American Association of Orthodontists will be held on Tuesday, February 18 at the Stevens Hotel during the Mid-winter Meeting of the Chicago Dental Society. Notice of the room number will be furnished upon its assignment and will appear on the bulletin board of the hotel. No formal program will be presented. Reservations may be made through Dr. L. B. Higley, 705 South Summit Street, Iowa City, Iowa, or Dr. Harold J. Noyes, 55 East Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois.

L. B. HIGLEY, *Secretary-Treasurer*