

The Angle Orthodontist

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



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War Time Orthodontics

AT EVERY HAND the business of war turns the tables of peace time supply and demand. The practice of dentistry and its special field of orthodontics are no exceptions. In both, the requirements of the military services must be met in a great measure by reduction in the aggregate of private practitioners. In both, the increased income and decreased consumer goods affects a level of the population previously made aware of the desirability of these services yet lacking the income margin which they either could or would convert to that purpose. As an inevitable consequence there exists today a greater demand for dental service and orthodontic management than can be met with the manpower available.

The situation has a graver implication upon the specialty of orthodontics than upon the general practice of dentistry. While in both a fraction of the problem may be met by increased hours and adaptations in manner of rendering the service the nature of the former will tend to overload the profession beyond its ability to render the service. The extent to which orthodontists can give emergency and temporary assistance are in no way comparable with like services in general dentistry. The obvious need for orthodontic treatment, the ability to undertake it and the very human and unwitting failure of the orthodontist to realize that point in his practice when to give time to a new patient is to do so at the expense of others for whom he has already assumed obligation, all these contribute to a situation which though not peculiar to orthodontics is preeminent in that field.

The experience of the past offers abundant and convincing testimony that poor orthodontic service is worse than no service. The havoc which can be wrought upon the teeth, dental arches and face not to mention the waste of time, dollars and confidence is too great a price to pay for haphazard treatment. Orthodontics in America has been waging an uphill fight to recapture the confidence of the public and the profession from the very conditions which now threaten to again destroy it.

In the face of mounting overhead, of rising living costs, taxes and obligations to the war chest, Red Cross, and a host of other worthy demands upon income the specialty of orthodontics must, if it wishes to survive the consequences of war time orthodontics take a firm and determined stand to insure that the *services* rendered deserve the name. For your patients, for your profession, for your self respect, watch the number of cases you accept for treatment.

H. J. N.