

Observation Of An Orthodontic Patient Fifteen Years After Treatment

A Case Report

EDWARD L. MITCHELL, D.D.S.
Indianapolis, Indiana

Girl—Age 15½ years.

Classification—Class I

History: The early history of this case showed the patient had the average run of children's diseases. She suffered from rickets, general malnutrition and chorea. Her permanent teeth erupted somewhat later than the average, and the deciduous teeth were too long retained. The upper and lower left deciduous canines were still in place when orthodontic treatment was started. Adenoid and tonsillectomy was performed at five years.

Etiology: Malnutrition, Hypotonic lip function, prolonged retention of deciduous teeth and vertical masticatory function.

Treatment: The case was treated with the ribbon arch. The upper appliances were removed after two years and two months. The lower appliances were removed after two years and nine months of more or less active treatment; little or no adjustment was made for six months before retention.

Retention: Upper: The maxillary arch was retained with a plate which carried a labial wire attached distal to each lateral incisor. This was worn only a few months.

Lower: A cuspid to cuspid retainer with lingual wire was placed on the lower arch. Three months later the patient appeared for observation—then disappeared for five and one-half years when she came to my office to see an employee—to my surprise the lower retainer was still in place. It was removed at this sitting.

On January 26, 1937, six years after retention, a fifth cast was made of the case but too late to include a picture in this report. There has been no change, in fact, the latest casts will occlude perfectly with the last cast shown in this report.

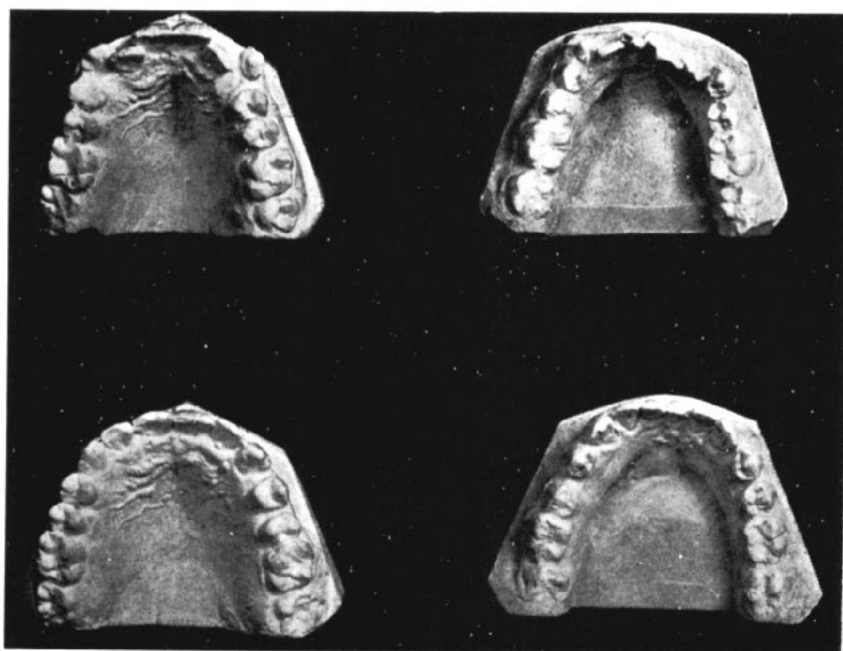


Fig. 1.
Occlusal view of casts before (above) and after (below) treatment.

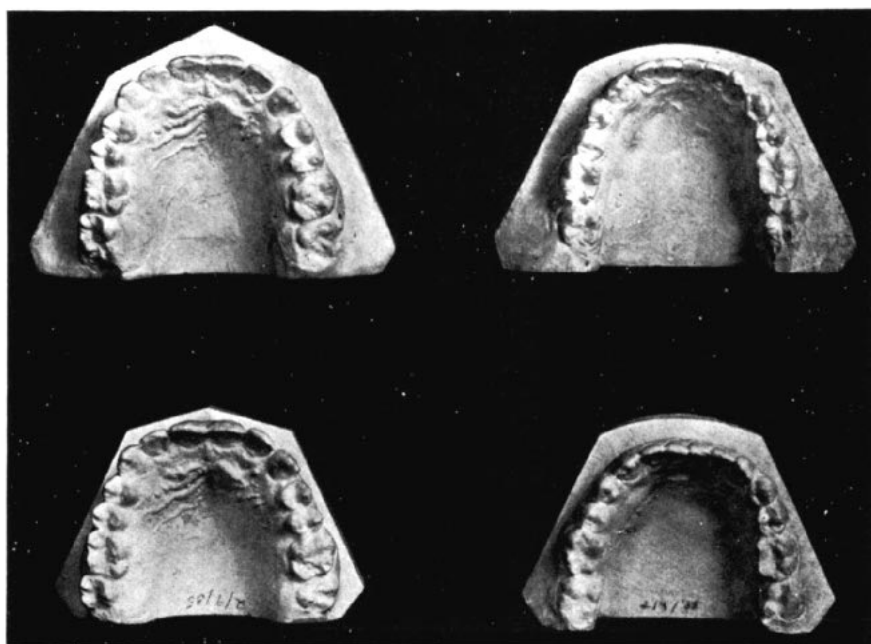


Fig. 2.
Occlusal views five and one half years after treatment (above). The lower cuspid to cuspid retainer was removed at this time. Lower casts four years after this retainer was removed.

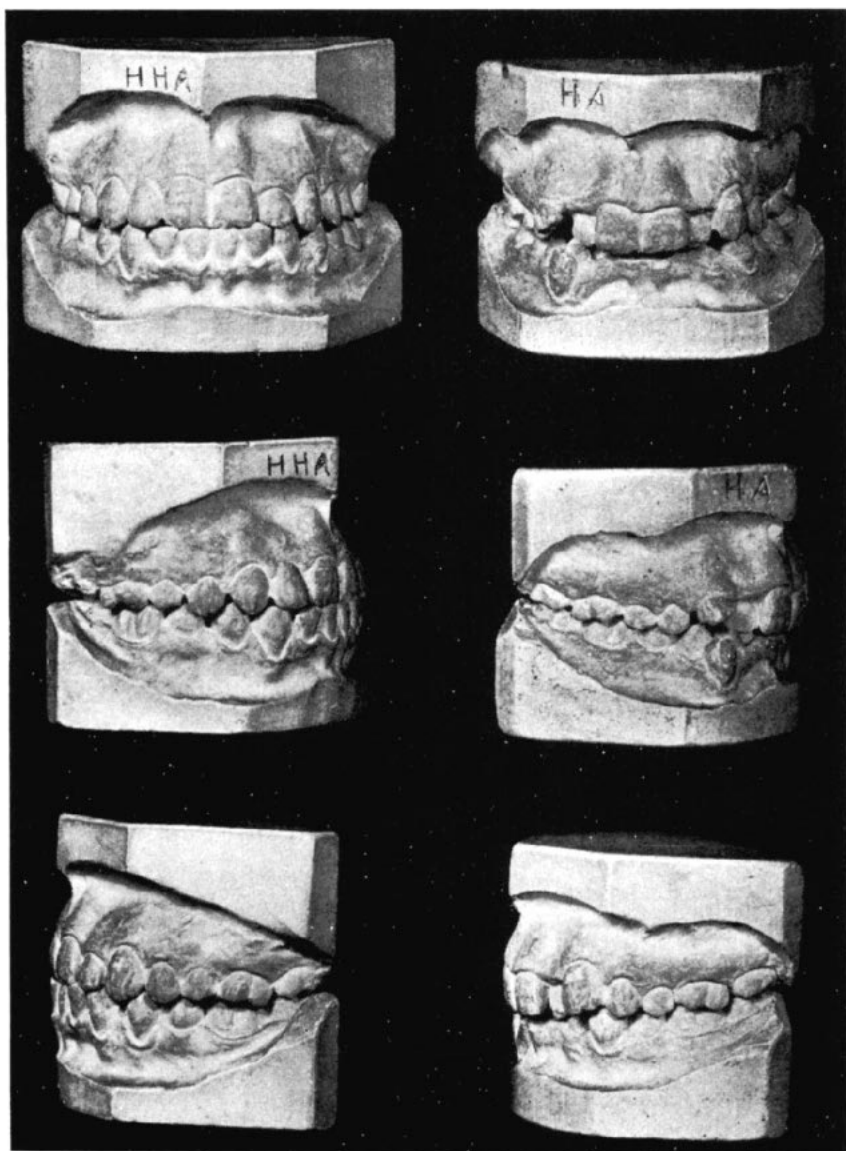


Fig. 3.
Right, left and anterior view of casts before (left) and after (right) treatment. The overbite has been reduced to an edge to edge bite.

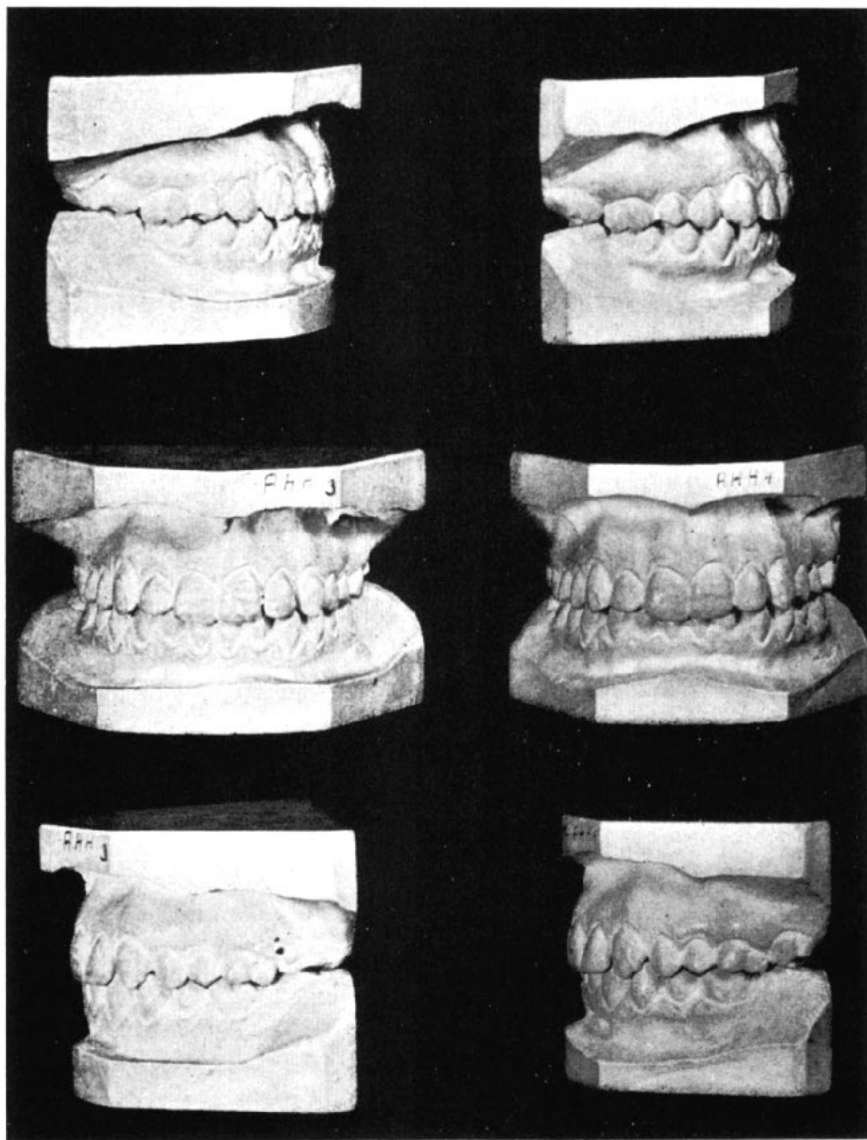
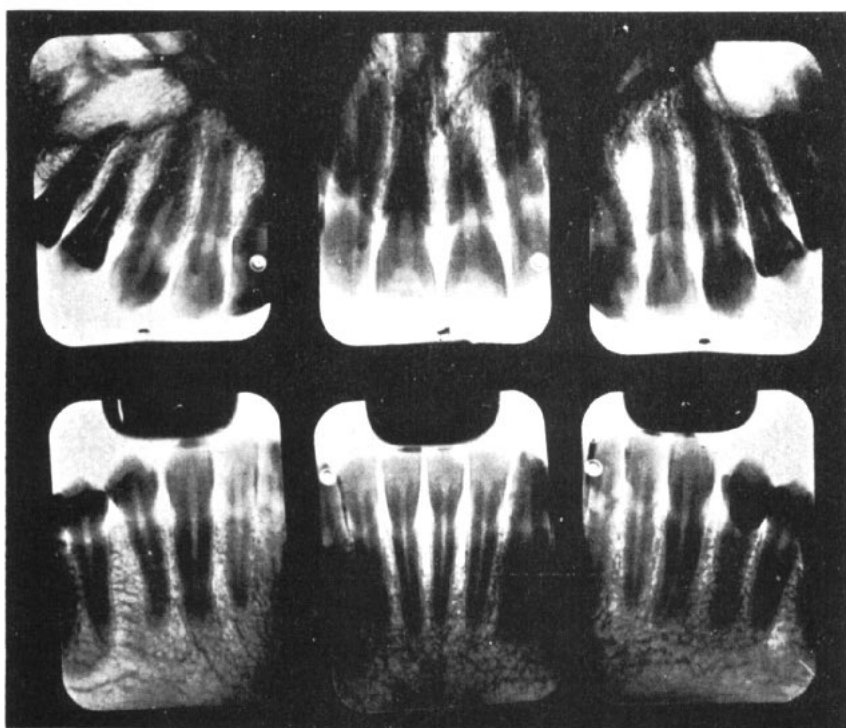
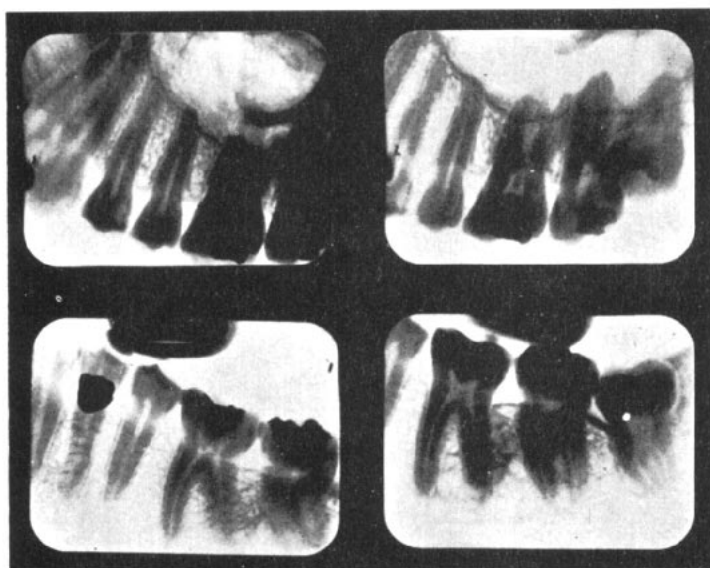


Fig. 4.
Casts made five and one half years after treatment (left) when lower cuspid retainer was removed and nine and one half years (right after treatment).



Figs. 5 and 6
Radiographs, fifteen years after treatment was started, show unerupted third molars.

Radiographs were taken January 26, 1937, and show the unerupted third molars some fifteen years after treatment was started. No original radiographs are available.

Summary and Remarks.

1. Patient fifteen and one-half years when case was started. Past thirty years of age at last observation.

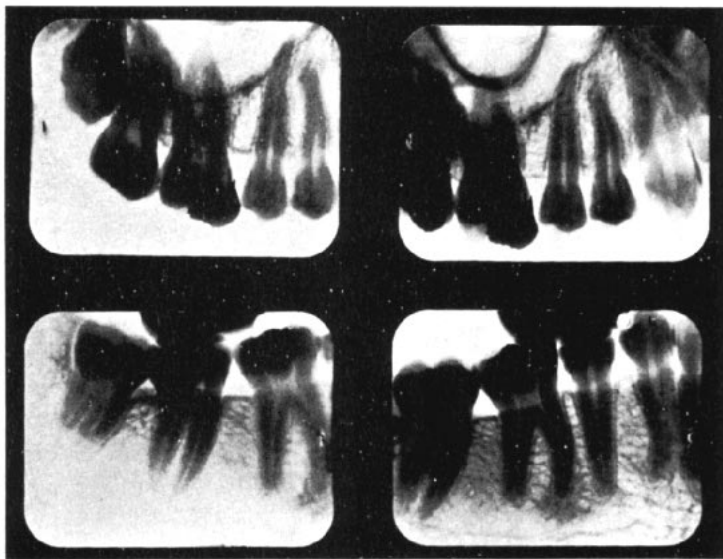


Fig. 7.

2. Appliance—ribbon arch (which has not been used by the writer for some years).
3. Case treated for two years and nine months with little or no adjustment during last six or eight months.
4. Patient disappeared with lower retainer in place for five and one-half years. The final result emphasizes the importance of adequate retention in such extreme cases, for if we allow a relapse the case should never have been treated. Better retain this type of case as long as you think necessary then forget retainer is in place.
5. It makes little difference how rapidly or how long we treat a case, if a permanent result is not accomplished orthodontia and the patient have not been well served.

701 Hume Mansur Bldg., Indianapolis, Ind.