

## DENTISTRY

IN 1841 the first Dental School was founded. Previous to that time and up to 1885 dentists were trained by other dentists, known as preceptors. In 1885 the first law regulating the licensing of dentists was enacted in Wisconsin. Men already in practice had only to register and make an affidavit attesting that they were already practicing.

In 1885 three men were in Neenah: Dr. J. P. Mertes had been here two years, Dr. V. M. Valerious for eight years, and Dr. J. T. Enos for an unknown period. We only know that Dr. Enos was number twelve to register in the state. The following year, 1886, noted a new man, Dr. W. E. Young. A year later we find that Dr. W. H. Meeker was added to the dental group. Meeker was here for several years. After his retirement to live in Appleton, he sold insurance, his wide acquaintance in the area being of considerable advantage.

Dr. Orrin Thompson came here in 1889 and continued till 1907, when his office was taken over by Dr. Wm. M. Post. A successor to Dr. Post was Dr. J. M. Donovan, who took over Dr. Post's office in 1911, Dr. Post at that time moving to the state of Oregon. Dr. W. F. Gary was in Neenah for thirty-five years, from 1894 till 1929. Dr. Frederick Taylor spent twenty-seven years in Neenah, 1896 till 1923, when Dr. G. N. Ducklow took over his office. Dr. Ducklow is still here and has a dentist son, Dr. Robert Ducklow, who has just returned to practice here after his hitch in the U. S. Army. Dr. Albert J. DuBois and Dr. George Barlow joined the dentists here in 1897. Both continued here till their deaths.

Dr. Gary was an exceptionally fine mechanic. His was a mind with a mechanical trend. In his laboratory were many devices made by himself. Dr. Gary was one of the founders of "Xi Psi Phi"—a dental college fraternity. Shortly before retiring he was a guest of the fraternity at the University of Michigan.

Dr. George Barlow, besides doing dentistry, had diversified interests. At one time, before the advent of the modern local anesthetic, he had the sole rights to use a patented local called Odun-under. He

also organized a dental supply company, which was indifferently successful.

Dr. Taylor was a tense man, with strong religious feelings. For many years he was connected with the Presbyterian Sunday School. He retired to his old home in Elkhorn.

Dr. Albert DuBois was the first dentist in Neenah to acquire X-ray equipment. Other dentists for many years were dependent on an X-ray service conducted by Dr. Greenwood, a physician.

Dr. J. M. Donovan, at the present writing, is still in practice, associated with Dr. John L. Donovan, his son. Dr. John L. Donovan started practice in 1943, the first three years in the U. S. Army. Dr. J. M. Donovan has served dentistry on both a state and national level. In 1924 he was President of the Wisconsin State Dental Society, and in 1942 was President of the American Association of Dental Editors. He is currently, and has been for twenty years, editor of the *Journal of the Wisconsin State Dental Society*. In 1938 he was elected to be a Fellow of the American College of Dentists, an honorary society for dentists who have made distinctive contributions to the profession.

Dr. Truman Seiler appeared in 1915, followed by Dr. L. J. McCrary in 1919, Dr. H. C. Schultz and Dr. Wm. M. Schultz in 1925 and 1932, respectively, Dr. W. F. Landskron in 1936, and Dr. A. E. Jenkins in 1938.

Dr. L. J. McCrary was for some time a member of the School Board. Dr. H. C. Schultz is, and has been for several years, deeply interested in sports and recreation. Dr. W. E. Schultz is currently a member of the City Plan Commission.

Neenah should be happy with the dental service available and with the public dental health program in the schools, which was fostered by Neenah dentists. A full-time dental program is currently existing and has been for over twenty years. Miss Dorothy Kuehne, a dental hygienist, instructs children of all grades on proper dental care. She also speaks to parent groups about their part in dental care.

Another phase of dentistry that is unique is the dental service for school children with insufficient means to pay for dental service. For some twenty years the Twin City Visiting Nurse Association has

underwritten this philanthropy. So far they have expended well in excess of \$12,000.

Up to the turn of the century there was little conformity in dentistry. Many men had secret methods which they jealously guarded. Present dentistry is much different. Men having attained special skills freely give them to the profession. Counsel and advice is freely available.

Through the efforts of local dentists, fluorides were added to the city's water in 1950. Already the benefits are becoming apparent. Dental decay in children's teeth has been reduced by 50%.

Down through the years several dentists appeared in Neenah, and, after a short period, left for locations more to their liking. Only some of the more recent names will be remembered. We list Dr. Todd, Dr. Mories, Dr. Traver, Dr. Sorenson, Dr. Wick, Dr. Post, Dr. Wagner, Dr. Jern, Dr. Kulnik and Dr. Jorgensen.

The dentists now in Neenah, in the order of their start in practice, are:

J. M. Donovan—1911  
 T. J. Seiler—1915  
 L. J. McCrary—1919  
 G. N. Ducklow—1923  
 H. C. Schultz—1925  
 W. E. Schultz—1932  
 W. F. Landskron—1936

A. E. Jenkins—1938  
 J. L. Donovan—1943  
 H. P. Jacobi—1950  
 R. R. DeWet—1952  
 J. M. LaLiberte—1954  
 J. J. Bouressa—1955  
 R. Ducklow—1958

It should also be mentioned that the Twin City Dental Laboratory is run by Mr. Patrick Smith, an expert technician.

*Compiled by Dr. J. M. Donovan*

