

Open To Negroes: CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Teachers of Mentally Retarded Children

If we say that there is a shortage of teachers in this country then we can say that there is a critical shortage of persons trained to teach children who are mentally retarded. This field offers splendid opportunities to Negroes.

It is estimated that 2 per cent of all school children are mentally retarded and should be enrolled in special classes for the mentally retarded. This would amount to more than 500,000 children in the United States. Less than one-fourth of this number are being cared for in our public schools. Many school superintendents would like to open special classes for these children, but adequately trained teachers are not available.

The teacher of mentally-retarded children is specially trained to help her pupils meet their needs. She must do more teaching of manual skills than do regular class teachers. She must teach these children to reach the highest goal of self-sufficiency of which they are capable; to develop wholesome human relationships; to acquire economic efficiency; and to become useful citizens in the community.

AT THE PRESENT TIME there are in operation more special classes for the mentally retarded than for any other group of children. In general, each state requires the teacher to have a special certificate in the teaching of mentally-retarded children. Required courses include psychology, child growth and development, methods for teaching the mentally retarded, curriculum and other related courses.

An organization providing professional leadership in this field is the American Association on Mental Deficiency, which publishes a magazine entitled *Mental Deficiency*. For further information on opportunities in this field, write the National Society for Crippled Children and Adults, 11 South La Salle Street, Chicago 3, Illinois; or the North Carolina Society for Crippled Children and Adults, Inc., P. O. Box 839, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Medical Survey: The Dentist-Doc, What Now?

By Marcus H. Rowland

Probably no professional practitioner is feared more than the dentist—widely known as the "tooth doctor"—unless it is the surgeon who tells you he is going to operate soon. For this reason, no deputy soon people neglect the proper care of their teeth until serious decay sets in.

But once they make up their minds and decide "to see a dentist," they are often disappointed by the failure of the dental surgeon to sell himself by his failure to inspire confidence, and by creating an impression of a lack of maturity in dealing with people.

Because they dread and fear toothache, one would think that people would proceed at once to the dentist for diagnosis. For some reason, people don't think in this manner.

Since they dread the "tooth puller," individuals refuse to think about the matter and procrastinate in this regard. Many people prefer to remain ignorant of the conditions of their teeth rather than have the dentist tell them a tooth must be pulled, a cavity filled, or dentures (false teeth) made.

IN ORDER TO FIND OUT what patients think about dentists, this writer surveyed 100 people during a four-month period by means of questionnaires and on-the-spot interviews with people in many walks of life, ranging in ages from 15 to 56.

Nine Make "Who's Who" At FSTC

FAYETTEVILLE—Nine upper-class men and upper-class women of the Fayetteville State Teachers College who have established substantial scholarship and conduct records and who have been active in extra-class activities were recently tapped for listing in the forthcoming issue of *Who's Who* among Students in American Colleges and Universities. Each was chosen on the basis of scholarship, conduct, and participation records at the school.

honored are Eva A. ...

The names of students so honored are: Eva L. Covington, Junior; E. L. Covington, Junior; Harold C. Fields, Junior of Laurinburg; Helen M. Gillis, Junior of Evergreen; Le Gray Hines, senior of Fayetteville; Evelynne Humphrey, senior of Roxboro; Joseph McSwain, Junior of Fayetteville; Delores Ann Miller, Junior of Fayetteville; Betty L. Payne, Junior of Hendersonville; and John W. Reamy, Junior of Pinnacle, New York.

With one exception, all nine are North Carolinians and three of them live in Fayetteville. Of the nine, seven are juniors, the other seniors.



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One question which he asked was, "What do you like about your favorite dentist?" These responses are ranked in the following order according to their importance:

- Dentist treats teeth instead of pulling it -18
- Dentist's work was painless-15
- Inspires me with confidence in his ability and know-how-10
- Dentist "talk my head off"-10
- He answered my questions honestly -10
- Doctor was friendly and cordial -6
- Dentist works fast and thoroughly -6
- Charges were moderate -6
- Wasn't anxious to extract all my teeth -3
- More interested in patient than in money -2
- Total -100

It should be noted that approximately 75 per cent of the reasons given by the patients in the survey was of a psychological nature. People were not interested in exams, in degrees earned, academic grades, and school from which the dentist graduated. No mention was made of organizations in which he had membership.

One woman said, "My dentist does not try to rob me. I am a poor widow and this means so much to me."

"I am a busy man whose time is valuable. My dentist works fast and

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Works too slowly -7
Said my mouth was awful -6
Careless about sterilizing instruments -6
Failed to wash hands -5
Ten nosy as he works -5
Asked first if I had money -3
Irritated because I feared pain -3
Does not tell the truth -2
Total -100

While the dentists put more emphasis on skill and scientific know-how, they often lose patients because of unfavorable publicity. From the reasons just mentioned, it can be seen that smoking, dirty hands, talking to much, bullying, carelessness are responsible for the loss of more business than defective workmanship.

"The last dentist I visited hurt my feelings by talking about how awful my mouth was. I started to get out of his chair," said a housewife. "I tell all of my friends not go to him."

An office secretary remarked, "I am terribly afraid of a needle. Just when I think the dentist is through with it he has to make another injection of hyperdermic. This irritates me very much."

A dentist may feel that fine workmanship is his best argument, and often it is; but there are many dental surgeons who do excellent work, but they have few patients. One may certainly wonder, WHY?

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