

## 10,000 CHILDREN TREATED BY DR. BRANCH IN FOUR YEARS

### He Delights the Children With Many Ancient Stories

(By Bessie Davenport)

Dentists are not generally looked upon with especial favor by their patients, and certainly dentists' offices are not regarded as a place of special delight, but both are true of the Wake County Dental Clinic in which Dr. Ernest A. Branch rules like a Pied Piper among the school children of the county. Incidentally Wake County is one of four in the state to provide a dental clinic for its school children, but Dr. Branch is the one and only dentist as far as children of this county is concerned.

Approximately 10,000 children have been treated by him since the clinic was installed nearly four years ago, and up to the 8,000 mark only 18 by actual count cried while in the dental chair. Not that they don't cry before, most of them do when coming for the first time, but it is not his way to force a child in the chair.

His work during the past month if done by a private firm, was estimated at \$1,500, and last month was in no way an unusual month. The clinic is operated as a branch of the County Health Department, and is supported by public taxes.

Mob psychology is used by some to account for his unusual success with children, and others merely say he "has a way with children." But parents who could well afford to have private work done on their children's teeth have found him so satisfactory that they are almost invariably sent to him for treatment.

Children are a great deal more trouble than adults in the dental chair. They require more time, trouble, and patience of the dentist, and hence are not generally regarded with favor by a general practitioner. But part of Dr. Branch's success with children is undoubtedly the fact that he visibly enjoys his work with them. Graduating from the Atlanta Dental College, he then spent ten years in special preparation to treat children's teeth. He was a student at the Forsyth Rental Infirmary for Children, and was later a member of the visiting staff.

His work is educational as well as corrective in character. If the mother accompanies the child, she is given a seat near the child, and while he works, Dr. Branch delivers a lecture on the care of the teeth, and proper diet for the child. If the mother does not accompany the child, he varies the tale, and tells it to the child, or rather children.

Children are not handled singly in the office, they are handled in flocks. And with a few old-timers to lead the way, the new comers who have to be disentangled from their mamas' skirts before they can be seen, fall in line more readily. A story of the mule whose tail hangs to the ground, and who brushes his teeth by eating rough stuff generally catches the attention, and when Dr. Branch retires to his work room the children come trooping after him.

They are seated on a long settee in the counter with only a few privileged new ones allowed to stand near the chair and watch the work but as various accounts of rabbit's foot oil made the left hind foot of a rabbit caught in the grave yard at midnight, and which has the power to remove "rust" from their teeth, is demonstrated on one of their number, gradually the circle closes in until he has to pause to make "elbow room."

There is always a cats tail brush used to polish the teeth that never fails to excite interest. It was formerly a habit to say that he needed some new cats tails, but after one grateful youngster returned the next day with his cat as an offering, Dr. Branch found it best to eliminate this statement.

Once they know him the children show implicit faith in him. A youngster came rushing in one morning with his two front teeth, both of which had tremendous roots, in his hand. "The Ford kicked 'em out this morning," he breathlessly explained, "and pa was startin' to town so I brought 'em along. I want 'em put back."

Jesse James, Huck Finn, and Tom Sawyer are all good friends of the doctor's. He doesn't like "little gal's blood in his boys," and he rarely gets an exhibition that there is any. Employees in the offices on the lower floor of the court house say that children who have occasion to be brought into their offices after a trip to the dentists never admit that he hurts them.

And there is really little necessity

to hurt them very much. Children's teeth are not generally filled until after 12 years of age, and baby teeth are never filled. They are painted with silver nitrate which keeps decay, and in a few years they are out. The roots of these teeth gradually recede until only the enamel case is left very lightly imbedded in the gum, and it is an easy matter to take a pick and flip them out.

Caraleigh and Pilot Mills Schools have the best teeth in the county, Dr. Branch declared. He attributed this mostly to the fact that they have been brought in regularly by the welfare workers, who have also put on an intensive campaign to teach the children to care for their teeth. In addition to the clearing, and that is the first thing he does when a child sits down in the chair, a regular inspection is also very desirable.

Dr. Branch stated that the dentists of Raleigh co-operated with him thoroughly, and expressed a desire for his department to assist them in any way practical.

In speaking of visitors, he explained that they were welcome at any time, and if he were forewarned, he might possibly clear up the debris caused by children cutting paper-dolls all over the place. But it wouldn't remain very long, he said, children are not favorable to a strictly orderly room.—Sunday's Observer.

#### IN LOVING MEMORY OF LITTLE MORRIS CONWAY PEARCE

On Friday morning, June 19th, at 1:30, the Death Angel visited the home of Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Pearce and took from them their darling baby, Morris Conway. He was only nine months of age, just in the prime of baby life, which is so sweet and precious to the mother. We can't understand why God has taken this little one, but while there is a vacant place in the home the vacancy in heaven has been filled and some day we shall understand.

Everything that loving hands could do, was done, but in vain. But God knows best and we must say, "God's will be done."

Our heart goes out in sympathy for the parents and grand-parents who so lovingly and patiently sat by and nursed this little precious one until he died.

The funeral was conducted Saturday evening at 1 o'clock by Rev. John Archie Melver, pastor of Pine Ridge Baptist church. A large number of friends and relatives were present to pay the last tribute of respect to the little one as it was laid to rest under a mound of flowers.

May God bless and comfort the sorrowing ones as no one else can and help them to say, like David the psalmist did: "The child can't come back to us but we can go to him."

IVA and LUCY PERRY.

#### Made Synonyms Only by Common Consent

In popular usage the words "thoroughbred" and "purebred" are practically synonymous. The dictionaries as a rule make no distinction between them. In fact the word "purebred" is not recognized at all by most dictionaries. Webster's International dictionary, which does not contain "purebred" defines the adjective "thoroughbred" as follows: "Bred from the best blood through a long line; pure-blooded—said of animals." The same authority defines the noun "thoroughbred" as a "thoroughbred animal, especially a horse." According to this dictionary it is equally correct to speak of a thoroughbred horse, a thoroughbred dog or a thoroughbred cow. This undoubtedly is the general and accepted usage. But scientists and breeders usually try to make a distinction between the two terms. According to technical usage, "thoroughbred" is applied only to the breed of running horses eligible for registration in the standard stud books. On the other hand, "purebred" is applied to pure-blooded animals in general. This distinction is ignored by practically all the dictionaries and is not observed in popular usage.—Pathfinder.

#### Wind Force and Speed by No Means Identical

"How strong was the wind?" is the question asked after a destructive storm. The answer to this question is likely to be misleading, says Nature Magazine, because it is nearly always stated in terms of speed rather than force, and the two things are not identical.

The force of the wind can be indicated accurately by saying what pressure it exerts (in pounds per square foot, for example) upon a surface at right angles to its path. This pressure varies approximately as the square of the speed.

Thus a wind of 20 miles an hour, blows about four times as hard as one of 10 miles an hour, and a wind of 30 miles an hour blows about nine times as hard as one of 10 miles an hour.

#### What Else Was There for Millicent to Do?

When Mrs. Gray came home Millicent met her at the door; she seemed bursting with news.

"Mother!"

"Well, dear?"

"What do you think Robert and that Jones boy did this afternoon?"

"Why, nothing bad, I hope—"

"Mother!" Millicent paused impressively. "They went and they built—a fire! Yes! With kerosene! Out behind the chicken coop where you told 'em they never must!"

"Millicent! Your little brother! Why, he might have—but why didn't you stop him?"

"Mother, told him, and I told him, and he said he would too, and I took him by the shoulder and shook—"

But Mrs. Gray was seized with a sudden suspicion. "Millicent, you know I keep the kerosene locked in the storeroom, and Robert doesn't know where I keep the key. Look me in the eye, Millicent. How did he get that kerosene?"

Millicent's eyelids flickered. "Well, you see, mother—er—when I saw that Robert and that Jones boy were determined to build a fire, why—er—I had to get the things for 'em, didn't I, and superintend 'em, didn't I?"—Youth's Companion.

#### His Gratitude Greater Than His Knowledge

A Filipino boy who had studied English in a Hawaiian night school sent the following letter to a white man who had befriended him and who had made him a present of some pictures and a shirt:

"I received your kind and welcome letter from you, so, I in it, I was very, very glad to heard from you that you so stated at present in good health and fiscal condition. At the second how glad I am and your sister that you were received of our picture in that brilliant afternoon, and so, by this time we were very pleasant that you will keep it so well the same as our bodies always talking and caring for you here. And so, even that picture is not very personally playing of your spirit so, be carefully like so as you body. About the shirt is coming to in my hand, I full of joy and a merry heart so that you did not forget of your promised to me, and now, it is very thanking at the heaven and you of your truly remember and present of this your brother did not know how to forget asking of God at the heaven that he always caring and protecting to you here day and night and far of badly misfortune."—Pathfinder Magazine.

#### Names for Nautical Fare

The sailor resembles the quick order restaurant waiter in that he invariably has a pet name for articles of diet. Salt beef, that standby of the menu at sea, was known during the Nineteenth century as "junk," "sap horse," "selt horse" or "selt junk." It was responsible, held one writer of sea stories, for the mahogany complexion of sailors, which was commonly attributed to a combination of rum and the weather. A stew answered to the name of "lobscouse," and was made of salt beef, biscuits and potatoes, seasoned highly with pepper. A dish of cold fish and potatoes was labeled "twice-laid," while a pudding of dried peas boiled in a cloth was welcomed by the sailors under the name of "dog's body." Ship biscuits were even then called "hardtack," while soft, white bread was christened "soft tack" or "soft tommy."

#### The Telephone

Elizabeth was three years old and what is more, Elizabeth, like most small girls, was very fond of games of "make-believe." Her latest delight in the realm of fancy was "playing telephones," a game of which she never grew tired.

Her grandmother was well aware of Elizabeth's fancy and one night, when the little girl was proving obstinate about going to have her bath, the old lady thought she would try a little strategy.

Grandmother (holding one end of the toy telephone)—Hello! Is that Elizabeth?

Elizabeth (very delighted)—Yes, grandma!

Grandmother—Well, come along Elizabeth, it's time for your bath.

Elizabeth (dropping receiver)—Wrong number!

#### Made Lonely Journey

A woman farmer in a lonely part of South Africa, Mrs. Ida Francis, has just shown that in luck and endurance British women settlers are no behind the men.

About two months ago a cyclone devastated her farm, which lies beyond the western fringe of the desert. Kalahari desert; and then came flood which destroyed the food and shelter for her cattle. The only way to save her animals was to drive them 400 miles across the desert to her son's farm, and this she did, unaided.

She found that many of the water holes in the desert had dried up, and sometimes she had to ward off attacks by lions with her rifle; but she kept steadily on, and in the end brought nearly all her charges through safely.—Family Herald.

#### Only Real Growth

Some men grow, others just swell up. It most frequently happens that the latter swell in the head, rather than elsewhere, and a little more largely contributes to this. True growth is marked by development of mind, heart, and soul.—Grit.

#### Galen Earned Title, "Father of Medicine"

The foundations of medical science were laid in the early part of the First century by Claudius Galen.

Galen was born at Pergamum, in Asia Minor. He spent some years at Alexandria and later went to Rome, where he wrote a work on anatomy and even performed dissections upon animals.

He considered that disease was largely based upon the four humors of man—bile, blood, phlegm and black bile—which were regarded as related to (but not identical with) the four elements—fire, air, earth and water—being supposed to have characters similar to these.

Thus, to bile, as to fire, were attributed the properties of heat and dryness; to blood and air those of heat and moistness; and finally black bile, like earth, was said to be cold and dry.

#### "Hobble" Stairway

In a certain building in Skowhegan, Maine, is an unusual flight of stairs, which have a rise of 5 inches and a correspondingly narrow tread, looking as if they were made for the convenience of small children. This stairway was built according to the idea of Dr. Henry Leavitt, a dentist in the building. It was the day of the hobble skirt. Clad in a hobble skirt, any woman ascended a flight of ordinary stairs with difficulty and Doctor Leavitt planned the stairs with this style in mind. About the time they were finished, the style passed to await its resurrection, but the stairs will remain—a memorial to a forgotten freak of fashion.

#### Louisiana Purchase

Payment for the Louisiana purchase was not made in actual gold coin or bullion. The exact cost of the purchase was 64,000,000 francs in the form of United States 6 per cent bonds, representing a capital of \$11,250,000. The ultimate cost would include not only the par value of the bonds, but also ten years' interest, the cost of surveying, of government exploration and of selling the lands. In addition, the American government agreed to assume and pay the obligations of France to American citizens for French attacks on American shipping. These obligations were estimated at \$3,750,000, making a total payment of \$15,000,000.

#### That Was the Trouble

A stranger on the main street of Hornsbyville, Ariz., came upon a battered individual with both eyes blackened and face swollen with bruises, lying in a heap against the curb at the principal corner.

"What happened to you?" asked the stranger with some agitation.

"A feller beat me up," was the reply, "for not payin' a bill."

"Why don't you send for a doctor?"

"The doctor was here about a minute ago, pardner."

"Oh, you're all right, then?"

"Why, pardner," said the wounded citizen, "it was the doctor's bill I didn't pay."—Hygeia.

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#### THE BOY WAS RIGHT

White, June 27.—Despite the fact that dry weather is not supposed to be conducive to the boll weevil increasing and doing damage on cotton plants County Agent J. T. Lazar is finding the weevils in alarming numbers on many farms and he is also finding them in greater or less numbers in practically all cotton fields that he has examined. Mr.

Lazar is urging the immediate use of calcium arsenate as a dust poison.

The Boy Was Right

Herman—"See that little speck out there on the horizon. That's a Scotch ship."

Healy—"Heavens man—you don't mean to tell me you know what flag she sails under from this distance. Why do you say it is a Scotch ship?"

Herman—"Well—there are no gulls following it."

# A. G. KEMP

ZEBULON, NORTH CAROLINA

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