

DENTISTRY

Reasons for Dental Visits Discussed by PHS Group

PEOPLE do not necessarily visit the dentist because they want healthy teeth.

They may instead, make a dental appointment for the purpose of repairing teeth to maintain appearance. Or, they may have dental work done because some member of the family has bad teeth. Motivations such as this were the subject of a panel discussion before the state and territorial dental directors meeting in Washington, D. C. (See p. 388.)

How often you will visit the dentist depends upon such factors as past experiences with tooth troubles, the seriousness of the present trouble, a belief in the dentist's ability to help, and a strong belief in the benefits of good dental care, Dr. S. Stephen Kegeles, psychologist, division of dental public health, U. S. Public Health Service, explained.

Forces that work against the drives to visit the dentists include socio-economic conditions, availability of dentists and psychological forces, he added.

The acceptance of water fluoridation is also subjected to similar motivations that govern the public's opinion on health measures.

For instance, older people are more likely to be apathetic toward a fluoridation program for their community because older persons feel that they are less susceptible to tooth decay than are younger members of the community. Thus, one finds younger people more interested in such a program, Dr. Newton E. Howe, division of dental health, Vermont Department of Health, told his colleagues.

Even doctors, and pediatricians especially, were criticized for offering youngsters such tooth-damaging pacifiers as lollipops and sweets. The dental health representatives were urged to stress the importance of lowering the carbohydrate intake.

Science News Letter, June 20, 1959

GENERAL SCIENCE

U. S. Signs Agreement With Atomic Agency

THE UNITED STATES and the International Atomic Energy Agency have signed an agreement for cooperation in the civil uses of atomic energy.

The agreement makes it possible for the international agency to draw upon the 5,000 kilograms of uranium-235 pledged to the agency by President Eisenhower at United Nations Headquarters in 1956. Besides the 5,000 kilograms, the U. S. has pledged to match the total amount of special nuclear materials made available by other members of the international agency until July, 1960. The Russian Government is making 50 kilograms available, and Britain, 20.

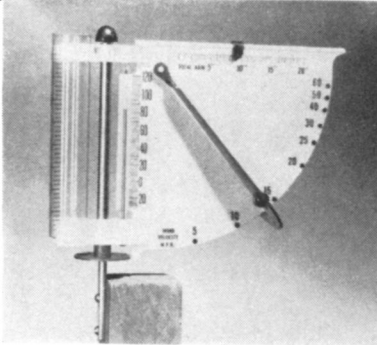
The international agency has agreed that any material, equipment or facilities transferred under the agreement will be used only for peaceful purposes.

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