

# **“Pioneer Dentists of Lancaster City and County”**

By Jerome G. Hess

From Journal of the Lancaster County  
Historical Society, Volume 65, Number 1,  
Winter 1961, 14–36.

Posted with the permission of  
LancasterHistory

## PIONEER DENTISTS OF LANCASTER CITY AND COUNTY

*Revealing for the first time many of the personalities who practiced the art and science of dentistry in Lancaster, Dr. Hess, himself a pioneer in that profession, shows the vast contributions made by local dentists as scientists and practitioners.*

Probably no profession in the world has made such rapid progress during the past seventy years as that of dentistry. Today there are many specialties in dentistry, such as oral surgery, exodontia, prosthesis, dental technicians and oral hygienists. The greatest progress was made in operative dentistry, in which there has been a complete revolution not only in materials used in the restoration of teeth to normal functioning, but in instruments used and the designs of types of equipment necessary in a well-furnished office.

It is a long way from the old type foot engine to the high speed electric engine used in operative and surgical procedures today. The knowledge of and the necessity for sterilization of the field of operation and of all the instruments used has become a part of modern dentistry.

**Dr. John McCalla**, the first pioneer in Lancaster dentistry of whom we have a record, was a leading member of his profession. He was born in northern Ireland, November 21, 1814, of Scottish ancestry who fled their native country on account of religious persecution and settled in Ireland. He came to this country with his parents who settled in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1821. At six years of age he obtained a very limited education in English. He first became a mechanic and followed his trade in Philadelphia, later going to Baltimore where he came in contact with some dental students. He then resolved to study dentistry and dental surgery.

Dr. McCalla began his course in dentistry in the latter part of 1846 and pursued his studies with vigorous energy under Dr. Chapin A. Harris, President of the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, and with Dr. C. A. Cone of Baltimore. He graduated from the college with honors in 1848, and for a short time practised his profession in Philadelphia. In the same year of his graduation he opened an office in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where he continued at the head of his profession, keeping in advance of others in his profession and fraternity, in science, art and theory of den-

istry, and in having laws passed, with the aid of other associations in the county and state, regulating the practice of dentistry, until 1877 when he retired from active life and settled in Millersville, Lancaster County, where he resided for some time.

Dr. McCalla has done as much as any man in Pennsylvania to give dental surgery the high place it now enjoys among the other professions. He was one of the first petitioners to obtain a charter for the first dental school in the State of Pennsylvania — namely The Pennsylvania Dental College in Philadelphia — also one of the organizers of the Odontological Society of Pennsylvania, in 1861. He was one of the founders of the Harris Dental Association of Lancaster, organized in 1867, and was the first to advocate the subject of a State Society, at a reunion of dentists in Lititz Springs (July 1869), consisting of The Harris Dental Association of Lancaster, the Lebanon Valley Dental Society, and a number of dentists from other societies, when a proposition was made to form the Pennsylvania State Dental Society.

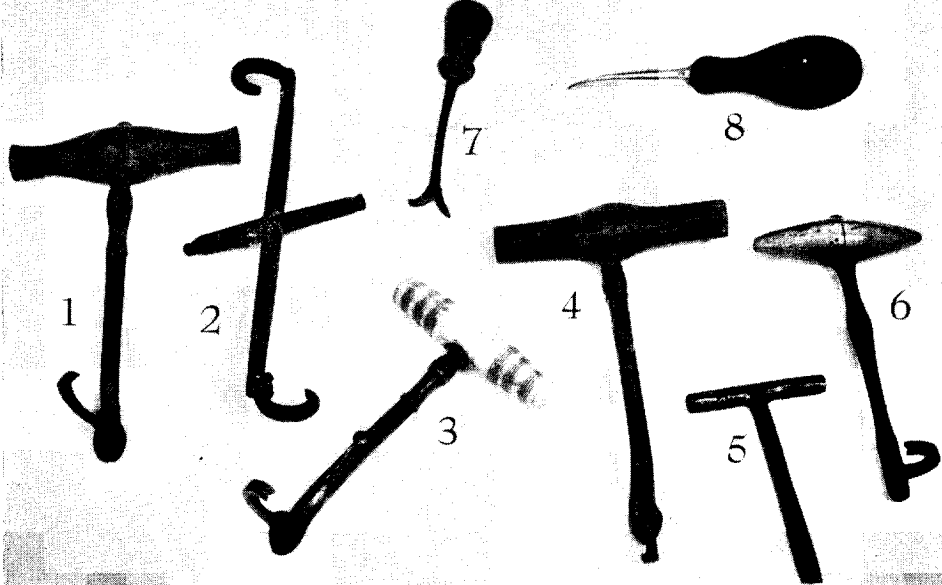
As president of the convention held December 1, 1868 at the Philadelphia Dental College, Dr. McCalla stated the purpose of having a State organization, which was primarily to raise the standard of the profession and to enact such legislation as was thought best to attain the objectives of better dentistry. He presided at the Second Annual Meeting of the Society at Pittsburgh, which convened on June 21, 1870; also at the Third Annual Meeting of the State Society held at Gettysburg, June 1871.

Dr. McCalla read many papers before the dental association meetings in the State. At the second meeting of the State Society in 1870 he read a carefully studied paper on the subject of "Extraction of Teeth," contrasting modes and giving a full explanation of the most modern and scientific study and practice of dentistry. He is regarded among the pioneers in Pennsylvania of improved and progressive dentistry. In 1856 he married Amanda K. Barr, daughter of Michael B. Barr of Quincy, Illinois.

## DR. PETER W. HIESTAND

Peter W. Hiestand, Doctor of Dental Surgery, was born in the homestead in Manor Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, December 15, 1831. He remained on the farm until the age of eighteen, when he began an apprenticeship with his brother John, a coach-maker, and subsequently learned pattern-making. In the meantime he employed his leisure in the study of dentistry and afterward completed his studies in the office of Dr. Josiah Martin in Strasburg.

Dr. Hiestand began the practice of his profession in 1856 in Millersville, where he continued to practice over a period of twenty-seven years. He was a good student and kept pace with the advance and worthy theories of the science and practice of dental surgery, in which he made unusual progress. He was one of the originators and a first member of the Harris Dental Association of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, organized in June



Early dental instruments from the collection of John Wentz. 1,2,3,4, and 6 are turnkeys of the period between 1750 and 1850. Those with fixed hooks and straight shanks (1,2,6) are probably of the later 18th century. No.'s 3 and 4 with adjustable hooks are from the early 19th century. Turnkeys were used to extract teeth. No. 5 is a form of the Lecluse elevator of the 1750's. No. 7 is a goat's-foot elevator used from the Middle Ages to 1800. No. 8 is a bodkin-like tool.

Photo by Marshall Dussinger

1867. It was largely through the efforts of this Society that the Pennsylvania State Society was organized, which has been a potent factor in elevating the dental profession in the State.

Outside of his profession Dr. Hiestand was interested in many enterprises. He was one of the original stockholders of the Millersville State Normal School and was a member of the Board of Trustees from 1850 to 1866. He was also a member of the Building Committee and chairman of the Committee of Instruction and Discipline of the Normal School from the time of its organization.

For a period of five years Dr. Hiestand leased and controlled the Lancaster and Millersville Street Railway, which he took over when it was in an embarrassing financial condition and left it, at the expiration of his lease, on a strong paying financial basis.

The Hiestand family came from Germany by way of Rotterdam, on the ship *Brittania*. They arrived in Philadelphia, September 1731, and settled in Lancaster County. John, the great-grandfather of Dr. Hiestand, resided in Manor Township. He was one of the pioneer settlers and a farmer by occupation. The subject of this sketch, Dr. Peter W. Hiestand, was the great-grandson of John, the founder of the Hiestand family.

## DR. THOMAS W. EVANS

Occasionally men of great intelligence, possessing keen powers of observation and endowed with inherent capacity for the accomplishment of many and varied services, arise in the course of years for the good of man-

kind. Such an individual was Dr. Thomas W. Evans,. Although not a native of Lancaster he engaged in the practice of dentistry in the city. Because of his personal characteristics and the quality of his work as a dentist in Lancaster, he laid the foundation for great achievements in later years. So we feel privileged to enroll and honor him with others as a pioneer in the practice of the science and art of modern dentistry in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Thomas W. Evans was born in Philadelphia, Pa., December 23, 1823 and died in Paris, France, November 14, 1897. He was the son of William M. and Catherine Anne Evans and a descendant of a family of Welsh Quakers who emigrated to Philadelphia in 1682. He received a common school education and at the age of fourteen was apprenticed to Joseph Warner, a gold and silver smith in Philadelphia, whose business included the manufacture of many instruments used by dentists and the construction of gold plates for the retention of artificial teeth. This employment brought young Evans in contact with many of the leading dentists of that period and is believed to have produced the impetus which later caused him to take up the study of dentistry. At that time there was only one dental school in America — The Baltimore College of Dentistry, which was organized in 1840 with only five students. In those days a person desiring to study dentistry was required to serve an apprenticeship for a period of two to three years with an established practitioner, and upon certification that the student was proficient he was permitted to practice.

In 1848 Evans became a student in the office of the late Dr. John De-Haven White, a very prominent Philadelphia dentist, with whom he remained for two years, after which he acquired the right to engage in the practice of dentistry. During the session of 1844 and 1845 he attended the lectures in Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, but there is no record of his having graduated as a medical doctor. He then practised dentistry in Baltimore for a very short time and later with Dr. William Van Patten of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, with whom he remained for several years. While in Lancaster he established a reputation as an expert in the use of gold foil as a filling material, and at the Annual Exhibition at the Franklin Institute of Philadelphia, in the spring of 1847, Dr. Evans gave a demonstration of a new method of filling teeth with gold, for which he received First Premium in recognition of the merit of his work. This was his first public recognition.

Among those who attended this exhibition was Dr. John Y. Clark, a retired Philadelphia physician living in Paris, France, then home on a visit. He was much impressed by the demonstration of Dr. Evans and remarked to a friend accompanying him that the young man doing it ought to succeed in his profession and incidentally might do well in Paris. Dr. Evans, being informed of this remark, sought an introduction to Dr. Clark. After several interviews it was arranged for Dr. Evans and Mrs. Evans to accompany Dr. Clark when he returned to Paris, Dr. Clark promising to use his influence in getting him established.

Dr. Evans arrived in Paris in November of 1847. There he found

the majority of dentists of low repute and unskilled. The physicians and surgeons of Paris considered teeth unworthy of attention, not realizing that they are the guardians to the gateway of health and not recognizing their importance as a factor in maintaining good health and in the proper masticating of food and their importance in formation of correct speech. Extraction was the order of the day.

At the time Dr. Evans arrived in Paris, Dr. G. Starr Brewster, an American dentist then practicing in Paris, was looking for an assistant. After an interview with Dr. Evans he offered him the position of assistant, which he accepted — an association which later developed into a partnership under the name of Drs. Brewster and Evans, which lasted until 1850. This relationship brought Dr. Evans into contact with the aristocracy and French society. His professional skill and charming personality gained for him many friends.

Professional differences with Dr. Brewster having arisen, Dr. Evans opened an office for himself and entered upon a career which was as wonderful as it was unique. His phenomenal success was attributed to his personal qualities quite apart from his skill as an operator.

Dr. Evans was the first person to study and develop the applicability of vulcanite rubber as a base for artificial dentures. One of the first substances with which he experimented to be used for the construction of a base for dentures was **caouchouc**. His efforts were directed particularly to modifying the elasticity and color of this compound. In the early part of 1848 he devoted much time and effort in trying to solve these problems. He proved to his satisfaction that sulphur was not likely to change or decompose in the mouth, and after trying many ways of combining it with caouchouc, he discovered that by the application of dry heat he could produce a material which was hard and black. Subsequently, by moist heat he obtained satisfactory results, and the specimens produced were identical with the vulcanite of India rubber then in use, with the exception of color. This discrepancy he modified by adding various coloring materials to his composition.

In 1851 his attention was called to the fact that Charles Goodyear, Sr., had discovered a new substance which from the description resembled that which he, Dr. Evans, had discovered. That same year Mr. Goodyear visited Paris and at the close of the London Exposition saw Dr. Evans who explained in detail the results of his experiments with caouchouc and his hopes for its use for dental purposes. At Goodyear's suggestion Dr. Evans made several sets of teeth with a base of rubber, one of which he retained. In 1855 Goodyear took out a patent for the application of caouchouc as a base for artificial dentures. This was a surprise to Dr. Evans, as he had told Goodyear that this manner of applying caouchouc should not be patented; he felt that members of the profession had an indisputable right to the unrestricted use of hard caouchouc in their work.

In 1844 John Cummings obtained a patent in the United States for vulcanite to be used for the construction of dental plates, under which he charged a royalty for each denture. Goodyear and Cummings pooled their



**Dr. Thomas Evans**

The Thomas Evans Dental Institute,  
University of Pennsylvania

interest and sold their patents to a company controlled by Josiah Bacon who instituted a system of licenses under which dentists were permitted to use the vulcanite process in the making of artificial dentures. These licenses not only covered the use of vulcanite but also the various steps of taking impressions, making of models, setting up the teeth and finishing the dentures. Dr. Evans believed that vulcanized rubber should be free to be used for the good of humanity, and at the request of the Massachusetts and the Maryland State Dental Societies, who were actively contesting the patents, he set forth an affidavit claiming his use of vulcanite as a base for dentures years before the date of the Goodyear-Bacon patents. Bacon tried his best to stop the use of vulcanite. He had his agents and spies travelling all over the country, enforcing his patent laws by lawsuits and other means of coercion. This situation continued until April 13, 1877,

when Bacon was killed by an enraged dentist in San Francisco.

The life story of Dr. Evans is that of a young man who left the United States for France without means or great influence and who by his industry and personality established a world-wide reputation in his profession, accumulated a fortune and became the friend and confidant of the royal families of Europe. He became acquainted with Emperor Napoleon III in the latter part of 1848 after he was President of the Republic of France. Napoleon had sent a message to Dr. Brewster, who was his dentist, that he would like him to come to the palace because he had need of his services. It so happened that Dr. Brewster was ill and unable to go. It fell to Dr. Evans then to take his place. He performed a slight operation which gave Napoleon much relief. He thanked Dr. Evans most cordially and expressed his wish to see him the next day. From that time on, until his death in 1873, Dr. Evans saw the Emperor frequently. Having extremely sensitive teeth and a tendency to frequent bleeding, the Emperor needed constant dental treatment. The relations between them were friendly and confidential as well as professional. At the end of the Franco-Prussian War Dr. Evans aided the Empress Eugenia to escape from France to England.

Transactions of a financial nature also aided materially in cementing the friendship of Napoleon and Dr. Evans. Although the reputation of the latter was much enhanced by his relations with the Emperor, the greater part of Dr. Evan's wealth was accumulated through real estate investments made possible only through his personal influence and friendship with the Emperor.

Dr. Evans left his vast fortune to found a dental school in Philadelphia bearing his name — The Thomas W. Evans Dental Institute of the University of Pennsylvania of Philadelphia. In addition to leaving his large fortune to the University, there are many articles of personal character deposited in the vaults of the Evans museum.

## DR. ELY PARRY

The founder of the Parry family in Pennsylvania, Thomas Parry, born in 1680 in Caernarvonshire, North Wales, came to America near the close of the seventeenth century. He married Jane Morris in 1715 and located in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

The family in Wales were Quakers, and the descendants of several generations held to that religious belief. David Parry (1778-1875), a descendant and founder of the family, resided in Drumore Township, Lancaster County, where he died. His wife, Elizabeth (Ely) Parry, was born in 1778 and died in 1816.

Dr. Ely Parry, the subject of this sketch, was born in Drumore Township, October 11, 1804. Dr. Parry was educated in the schools of his native place. He studied medicine with Dr. Sylvester Hanford, an eminent physician of Salisbury Township, Lancaster County, and was graduated from Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, Pa. Turning his attention



to the subject of dental surgery, he prepared himself for the practice of dentistry and paid little attention thereafter to the practice of medicine. He located in Lancaster and began his practice of dentistry in 1834. He was one of the earliest dentists in this part of the State and one of the pioneers in a profession that had made great progress during the latter part of the century. He was a founder of the Odontological Society of Pennsylvania, elected an Honorary Member of the Harris Dental Association of Lancaster, and was one of the founders of the Pennsylvania College of Dental Surgery of Philadelphia, which institution was later merged with the dental school of the University of Pennsylvania.

About 1836 Dr. Parry purchased the drug store of Washington Atlee at 111 East King Street, Lancaster, and had his dental office there. He maintained an interest in the drug business until 1864 when he removed to Bellefonte, Pa., practising his profession for a number of years in this city, after which he located in Lock Haven where he continued the practice of dentistry until his death in April 1874.

Dr. Parry ranked very high in the science, theory and art of his profession, and for several years before he died was professor of *Materia Medica* and Therapeutics in the Pennsylvania College of Dental Surgery, where he delivered many lectures and gave instruction in those subjects.

## DR. B. FRANK WITMER

To find a man and to trace his career — a man whose keen intellect covers a store of knowledge as comprehensive as it is great, and one who was a lifelong student, a successful dental surgeon and prominent in business — is a pleasure not often accorded the biographer in this day. Such a life has been that of Dr. B. Frank Witmer — a man whose influence in public betterment has been particularly great and valuable to the city of Lancaster and the State of Pennsylvania.

B. Frank Witmer was born in West Lampeter Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, May 7, 1872; a son of Christian and Mary Ann (Herr) Witmer, both natives of West Lampeter Township. Christian N. Witmer was a prominent business man in East Lampeter Township, where he engaged in the coal and lumber business for many years.

B. Frank Witmer obtained his early education in the schools of his native place. Later he attended the Franklin and Marshall Academy, where he prepared for college. After entering the dental school of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, and graduating from there in 1894 with the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery, he began the practice of his profession in Lancaster, becoming eminently successful.

Dr. Witmer had excellent judgment in the conduct of his practice of dentistry, which he continued until 1916. At that time he became interested in the coal business, but gave it up at the end of his first year due to ill health. He later became associated with Bair and Witmer, a ladies' furnishing store. The same firm also had a store in Harrisburg, Pa., and in both of these stores Dr. Witmer took an active interest. He was also

associated with many other companies and corporations of Lancaster. Externally he was well known as a member in the various Masonic bodies and a Past Master of the Blue Lodge No. 476 of Lancaster, Pa. He was a member of the Lancaster Country Club, the Hamilton Club and the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce. In religious affiliation he and his family were members of the St. James Episcopal Church of Lancaster.

On August 1, 1905, Dr. Witmer was united in marriage with Miss Rose Costello who was born in Marticville, Lancaster County, Pa., a daughter of C. W. and Sarah Costello. They were the parents of two sons, B. Franklin, Jr. and Harry Witmer.

Dr. Witmer made many lasting friends in his travels. He was a man of strong character, honest and upright in the extreme, fair and liberal-minded, as is any true student of life — and to such a man is due the progress and development of not alone Lancaster and the State of Pennsylvania but of the country in general.

Dr. Witmer died on the 25th of February, 1958.

### DR. WILLIAM JOHN GIES

To describe fittingly a character rich in humanistic tendencies and a career abounding in achievement is not easy — but it becomes a real pleasure to have the opportunity of bringing to you the accomplishments of Dr. William John Gies.

Dr. Gies proved himself a man of lofty professional vision and ideals — one who recognized the truth that in order to serve effectively science must not always be subordinated to commercial interests. He realized that to be well ordered a profession must set, above all else, the importance of considering principles as apart from persons or profit; that unless selflessness rather than selfishness prevailed it would lose dignity in its own eyes and high esteem in the eyes of the public.

Such an ideal is not particularly rare, and many professional men possess it, but comparatively few have demonstrated that they have the courage and energy to support sound principle and to bring the real into line with the ideal and transfer dreams into facts. With Dr. Gies, to see a vision was to launch the enterprise and follow it with avidity to its logical conclusion. In spite of his lofty professional idealism Dr. Gies was known as a genial and companionable person. He had the ability to make and retain friendships easily. He liked people and was free to show his liking. He always thought and spoke kindly of people and did not hastily judge men or their motives.

Dr. Gies was undoubtedly one of those people upon whom Providence bestowed the spirit of high adventure and an infinite desire to serve mankind. He was a man of courage, energy and determination to have his ideas become a reality.

Dr. William John Gies was born February 21, 1872, in Reisterstown, Baltimore County, Maryland. Shortly after the death of his father in



**Dr. William John Gies**

1874 he returned with his mother to her parents' home in Manheim, Lancaster County, Pa., where he spent his boyhood. At the time William Gies came to Manheim the population numbered almost 1500. The town had very little industry and whatever the townspeople enjoyed was derived from the fact that it was a purchasing center in a rich farming area.

When seven years of age Will Geis went to work under the guidance of his grandfather. From the age of seven until fifteen years later, when he left Manheim for admission to college, he carried the weekly "Manheim Sentinel" regularly to the homes in Manheim. Will Gies, the newsboy for fifteen years, became a real personality in the town. It was the earnings from his job as the town newsboy, plus the sacrifices of his mother, that made it possible for him to enter college. Fortunately, his mother lived to enjoy the satisfaction derived from a knowledge of her son's achievements.

The father and mother of Will Gies were staunch Lutherans and their exemplary lives had been a great influence in moulding his religious life and future activities. In 1892 the first Christian Endeavor Society in Man-

heim was organized, with members from all the churches, and William J. Gies was elected president. During his freshman year at Gettysburg he was confirmed a Lutheran and later became a member of the Zion Lutheran Church in Manheim.

William John Geis was intensely absorbed with politics. He was a staunch Republican. In 1880, during the campaign which culminated in the election of James A. Garfield as President, Gies at the age of eight organized a "Garfield and Arthur Club" in Manheim. At sixteen years he was president and marshal of the junior "Harrison and Morton Marching Club" which participated in parades all over Lancaster County. It was his keen desire to express himself which early led him to be a ready debater on all public questions. These experiences in his formative years enabled him to develop his talents. At Gettysburg he organized the first debating club in the history of the college.

William Gies was a good student. His early education began in the public schools of Manheim and was completed with his graduation from Manheim High School in 1888 with the highest honors. He was anxious to continue his education and was admitted to Gettysburg College in the fall of 1889. While at Gettysburg he had a very heavy schedule. He wrote the college monthly and was a correspondent for the Philadelphia Press. As a senior he was editor of "The Spectrum," Gettysburg's annual class book. The Athletic Association elected him their secretary. He advocated and secured an amendment to the constitution of the college to admit female students. He was active in Y.M.C.A. work, and although a very close student, he was also interested in athletic activities, which enabled him to develop physically as well as mentally.

By putting the spirit of his thoughts and his thoughts into action, through thrift, energy and industry, he was graduated from Gettysburg College in 1893, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Science. Desirous of gaining additional learning and culture, he was admitted in 1893 to advanced standing at Yale University and was graduated from there in 1894 with the degree of Bachelor of Philosophy, working his way by tutoring students. Through his academic environment and activities he was inspired to choose teaching as his vocation. The formative years of his education and training as a teacher were those spent at Yale from 1894 to 1898, in close association with two noted scientists, as assistant in zoology to Verill, 1894 and 1895, and assistant in physiological chemistry to Chittenden, in the same years. He was also instructor in physiology in 1896-1898. Among his friends he often alluded in an affectionate and appreciative way to the noble influence of these master minds in moulding his career.

He received the degree of Master of Science from Gettysburg College in 1896. In 1897 Yale University conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, after three years of teaching, research and graduate work.

In May 1899 Dr. Gies married Mabel L. Lark of Millersburg, Pennsylvania, a graduate of Irving College and at the time a graduate student at Bryn Mawr College. Their children are John, born in 1902 (now deceased); James Tressler, born in 1905; Robert Henry, born in 1909; and Mary (Kelley), born in 1917.

Dr. William J. Gies was appointed to the medical teaching staff of Columbia University in 1898, passing through the usual grades of promotion from instructor to the chair of full professor in 1905. At Columbia University he founded the first Department of Biological Chemistry in the Medical School in 1898. The summer months of 1899 he spent at the University of Berne, Switzerland, as a special student in physiology, and while there completed two researches, one with Kronecker, the other with Asher, which were published soon thereafter. The results of one of these researches he reported in person at the meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science held in Dover, England, in 1899, at which Lord Lister presided.

During 1894-1898 he was the author of twelve research publications — active not only as a teacher but a writer and investigator as well. In addition to being the author of the Bulletin on Dental Education, published by the Carnegie Foundation, Dr. Gies was the author of eight volumes of Biochemical Researches (1903-1927) and of textbooks in general chemistry, inorganic chemistry and biological chemistry.

In 1916-17 Dr. Gies was elected chairman of the Executive Committee of the New York School of Dental Hygiene and was instrumental in bringing about its incorporation into Columbia University. He was a member of the Organization Committee and was secretary of the Administration Board of the school from 1917 to 1921, which office he resigned in order to detach his studies of dental education in this country and Canada. He founded the Journal of Dental Research in 1919 and was the active editor until 1937, when elected editor emeritus. In 1920 he founded the International Association of Dental Research, was its General Secretary from 1920 to 1922, and Honorary President from 1922 to 1928. He was also chairman of the Dental Advisory Board of the Department of Health of New York City from 1926 to 1934, and a member of the Guggenheim Dental Clinic from the time of its foundation in 1929. He was a member of the national societies devoted to research in biology and medicine, and the American College of Dentists; also an honorary member of the following dental societies: Allied Dental Council, American Academy of Priodontology (a fellow), Dental Forum, First District Dental Society of the State of New York, New York Academy of Dentistry, and New York State Dental Society.

In 1923 Dr. Gies made notable contributions to the progress of dental education by initiating and leading the negotiations which consummated in the organization of the American Association of Dental Schools. At that time there were four organizations of dental education, namely, the American Institute of Dental Teachers, The National Association of Dental Faculties, Association of American Universities, and the Canadian Faculties Association. As a result of Dr. Gies's open, frank and vigorous leadership, the four bodies agreed to dissolve their respective organizations and consolidate into one. He was a member of the special committee appointed in 1929 by the American Association of Dental Schools which obtained the appropriation from the Carnegie Corporation for the Dental Curriculum Survey begun in 1930.

Recognizing the extent and quality of the services of an untiring worker, Gettysburg College conferred upon Dr. Gies the degree of Doctor of Science in 1914. In 1923 he was elected to active fellowship in the American College of Dentists, and Baylor University and Gettysburg College both honored him with the degree of Doctor of Laws in 1924. Because of his great sacrifices and unselfish labor for the promotion of health service through dentistry, the Rhode Island State Dental Society conferred upon him, in 1927, its Award of Merit: a medal and scroll. In 1928 the State of Ohio Dental Society awarded him the Callahan medal, and in the same year the pupils and his colleagues founded at the Columbia University in his honor The William J. Gies Fellowship for Research in General Biology, in Medicine and Dentistry.

Dr. Gies was a layman with an abiding interest in the continued promotion of public welfare. His unusual opportunities to study the problems of dentistry and medicine gave him a keen appreciation of the value and importance of this field of professional service. As a consequence of his convictions he devoted much of his time and energy for many years in emphasizing the health aspects of dentistry — in awakening dentists to a greater appreciation of the needs and obligations of their profession. His efforts and counsel and leadership have done much to advance the standard of dentistry and to elevate it in public appreciation and esteem.

Dentistry, in profound appreciation of his achievements and as a token of sincere esteem, gave a testimonial dinner to Dr. William J. Gies at Atlantic City, New Jersey, July 11, 1937, at an open session of the American College of Dentists and with the cooperation of the American Dental Association, Canadian Dental Association, American Association of Dental Schools, National Association of Dental Examiners, American Association of Dental Editors, the Dental Section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the International Association for Dental Research.

As a scientist, teacher, philosopher and a great leader, Dr. Gies was an inspiration. One does not have the privilege of knowing many truly great men in a lifetime; those who knew Dr. Gies were convinced of his greatness. It is also a genuine satisfaction when one finds a really honest man. Dr. William John Gies was morally, mentally and spiritually honest. He was a man too busy to use his talents in seeing how much money he could accumulate; too spiritually honest to trade real worth for its imitation. He has passed on something that no person can take away, no economic depression can destroy, and that no wealth can buy. Long ago his character and attainments made a wholesome impression upon the older members of the profession; it is an ardent hope that they will be the ideal for those whose careers are before them.

Dr. Gies proved his true worth in wanting to return to Mannheim, the place of his boyhood days. On October 18, 1951 a testimonial dinner was given to him at Mannheim by his many friends. The kindness and generosity of the formal and informal tributes were deeply appreciated by him. Dr. and Mrs. Gies returned to New York City with hearts overflowing

with memories of the succession of inspiring events during "Pennsylvania Week" in their old home town — memories which they no doubt cherished and often recalled with undiminished gratitude.

Dr. and Mrs. Gies moved to Lancaster in 1955, and on May 29, 1956 Dr. Gies departed this life. He is buried in Fairview Cemetery, Manheim, Pa.

## DR. JEROME G. HESS

*[Editor's note: Inasmuch as the author himself was a pioneer in dentistry, Dr. T. B. Garvey was invited to prepare the following sketch of Dr. Hess.]*

Dr. Jerome G. Hess was born in Fairland, Penn Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, on October 31, 1880. After attending the public schools in his home community he entered the Millersville State Normal School, Millersville, Pa. He taught several terms in the public schools of Lancaster County before graduating from Millersville in June 1905. His education was continued at Perkiomen School, Pennsburg, Pa., from which he graduated in June 1906.

Dr. Hess entered the Dental School of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa., in September 1906, and graduated with high rank in his class, June 1909, with the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery. He matriculated in the Post Graduate School of Dentistry, Philadelphia, in September 1909, and completed his post graduate studies December 23rd of the same year. In 1913 he returned to the Post Graduate School of Dentistry in Philadelphia to take special instruction in the use and administration of nitrous oxide and oxygen for analgesia and anaesthesia for painless dental operations.

Dr. Hess first established his practice in Elizabethtown, Pa. in January 1910, where he remained until August 1913. He then located in Lancaster, Pa., where he practised until his retirement from the profession. With an exceptionally thorough training in his calling he quickly won an enviable place among his colleagues and in the life of the community. He kept abreast of all improvements in dental science, theory and technique. He holds the highest respect of his professional brethren for rare skill and a strict observance of professional ethics.

In 1920 he took an intensive course of study in oral diseases and their treatment with Joseph Head, M.D., D.D.S., of Philadelphia, Pa.

Dr. Hess was the first dentist in Lancaster and vicinity to use the combined gases, oxygen and nitrogen, for the painless preparation of cavities in teeth for restorations and oral surgical operations. Many of his essays on this subject were published in the leading dental journals of that day. Nitrous oxide and oxygen were extensively used for a number of years with much success.

Realizing the impossibility of making a thorough diagnosis of the teeth and their investing structures, Dr. Hess learned of the use of X-ray in

surgery and believed it applicable in dentistry. He was the first dentist in Lancaster to use the X-ray for a complete examination and study of pathological conditions and the effects of impacted teeth, and other conditions which needed correction. Early recognition of the value of orthodontia and the need for someone to specialize in this field for the benefit and treatment of facial, speech crippled humanity, became evident. The knowledge and practice of Orthodontia was limited at that time. Although



Photographs taken before and after three years of orthodontia by Dr. Hess. Patient's eyes masked to conceal identity.

the subject matter available was meager, Dr. Hess was deeply interested in the correction of these deformities and he accepted for treatment as many patients as he could, in addition to his general practice. The improved facial appearance and the psychological results obtained were phenomenal.

Dr. Hess was married in the First Reformed Church of Lancaster, Pa., September 4, 1913, to Mary Ethel Shee, born in Media, Delaware County, Pa. Mrs. Hess was educated at Darlington Seminary, West Chester, Pa., and Maryland College, Lutherville, Maryland. She taught for six years in the public schools of Lancaster County. She was the daughter of Parke and Margaret (Bonsall) Shee of Media, Pennsylvania.

During the course of years in which Dr. Hess conducted his general practice he served his community by giving part time voluntary service, with his colleagues, in the dental clinic for the care of children's teeth at the Lancaster General Hospital. He was a member of the Lancaster City Board of Health for a period of four years and during that time was supervisor of the dental clinics in St. Joseph's Hospital and the Lancaster General Hospital. At the beginning of World War II he was appointed Con-



sultant for the Draft Boards in Lancaster City and nearby areas; also Chairman of the Procurement and Assignment Committee for the dentists of Lancaster City and County. He was very successful in both of these appointments in connection with his general practice. He was awarded a medal by the Congress of the United States for loyal and efficient service, and a certificate of appreciation from the President of the United States. Dr. Hess is a life member of the Lancaster County Dental Society and was its president in 1930. He is also a life member of the Fifth District Pennsylvania Society, the Pennsylvania State Society, and the American Dental Association. He is a member of the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution and was one of its Board of Managers for a term of three years; also a life member of the Lancaster County Chapter, Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution. He served as Regent of this Chapter for several years and on some of the committees, as well as being a member of the Executive Committee for a number of years.

Dr. Hess retired from the practice of his profession, December 31, 1951. At the Annual Meeting of the Lancaster County Dental Society, May 20, 1952, Dr. and Mrs. Hess were the guests of honor. Dr. Hess delivered an address for this occasion, which was received with a great deal of enthusiasm and appreciation. The Society honored him by the presentation of a plaque in recognition of his forty-two years in practice and his services to the Society, profession and community.

[Written by Dr. T. B. Garvey]

### DR. CHARLES V. SNYDER

To write the personal record of one who has given much of his time and talent for the good of the citizens of the community is no ordinary pleasure. A record of more than fifty years of service in his chosen profession, and the many varied services crowned with success, is the life of Dr. Charles Victor Snyder — a life worthy to be emulated and an inspiration to those who are at the start of their career.

Dr. Charles V. Snyder was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, August 26, 1887. He received his early education in the Lancaster city public schools and Yeates School. He attended Franklin and Marshall College where he received his pre-dental education, and entered the Dental School of the University of Pennsylvania, graduating from that University with the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery in 1910.

Dr. Snyder was appointed chief of the dental staff of the Lancaster General Hospital in 1917, and held that office continuously until 1952. At the time he was appointed, the equipment was limited to a chair, a cabinet for the instruments, and a bracket table to hold the instruments for the convenience of the operator while the patient received the treatments indicated as a result of careful examination. The dental supplies and instruments needed were augmented as rapidly as conditions warranted. Dr. Snyder was honored for his long untiring service as chief of the dental staff by being elected an honorary member of the staff in 1952.

Since he was deeply interested in the dental health of the community, Dr. Snyder was appointed a member of the Board of Health of Lancaster for a term of four years. During that time he was Director of the Dental Department of the Lancaster City School Board. He was also interested in the work of the Lancaster County unit of the American Cancer Society. To recognize in its incipient stage the presence of cancer of the mouth of patients, in the field of dentistry, is no mean accomplishment; if observed early in its formation, much suffering and disfigurement can be avoided. Dr. Snyder was elected President of the Lancaster County unit of the American Cancer Society and later a Trustee of the local unit.

On April 5, 1913, Dr. Snyder married Mary E. Stamy. They have three children: Mary Ellen Bixbee, Harriet Rick and Charles Victor Snyder, Jr. Having a family of his own and desiring them to become good and useful citizens, Dr. Snyder took a keen interest in the public schools of Lancaster City. He served on the Board of Education of Lancaster City and later was elected President of the Board, which office he held for several terms. Many improvements were made in the buildings and facilities of the schools during his incumbency as President of the Board. One great achievement was the construction of the Lancaster City High School.

Dr. Snyder was a former member of the Elizabethtown Hospital for Crippled Children. His interest there was not only confined to those children who were physically handicapped in their ability to walk, but he was aware of, and advocated treatment for, those who were oral-facial and speech crippled. These unfortunate children who suffered from cleft palate, hare lip and defective speech, received very little attention in past years. In reality they were in distressing need of rehabilitation to enable them to find a place later on in society and become useful and self-supporting citizens. It is only after one has seen several of these facial cripples that he can begin to appreciate the courage, the determination and physiological problems of persons so disfigured and what is required to undertake the treatment necessary for complete rehabilitation so that they can be unreservedly acceptable in every avenue of life.

Although the nurses' course of training at the Lancaster General Hospital is broad and very thorough, it would not be complete without a course of study in Oral Hygiene. Dr. Snyder inaugurated a course of training in Oral Hygiene for the nurses and gave a series of lectures. Prior to this instruction to student nurses, little attention was given to the mouth hygiene of patients in the hospital. This training was a distinct help to the nurses when in charge of patients, whether in the hospital or in charge of private patients — a most important factor in restoring the health of individual patients under the care of nurses. Unless the teeth and mouth of the patient receive the proper hygienic care, it is reasonable to assume that the progress of recovery may be greatly impeded because all food comes in contact with the teeth before passing on in the digestive tract.

It is within comparatively few years that courses in Oral Hygiene have been available in dental colleges, and since the approval of such courses in these colleges, the demand for teachers of Oral Hygiene has

greatly increased. Dr. Snyder is guest lecturer on Oral Hygiene at the University of Pennsylvania.

During World War II Dr. Snyder was on the Draft Board in Lancaster City — a patriotic service to our country on his part.

Dr. Snyder is a Past President of the Rotary Club of Lancaster; a member of the Lancaster County Dental Society, the Fifth District Pennsylvania Society, the Pennsylvania Society, and the American Dental Association; also a Past President of the Lancaster County Dental Society. He is a Trustee of the Lancaster Free Public Library, Vice-President of the Lancaster Medical Bureau, Fellow of the American College of Dentists, Fellow of the Pierre Fauchard Academy, and Fellow of the Academy International of Dentistry.

At the Dental School of the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Snyder was elected to membership in the Phi Sigma Kappa Fraternity. He is a member of the Lamberton Lodge No. 476 F. and M., the Psi Omega Fraternity, and the Tucquan Club.

### DR. HERBERT K. COOPER

Dr. Herbert Kurtz Cooper, after six years of general practice in Lititz, Lancaster County, Pa., decided to specialize in orthodontia and the related branches to that science and art of dentistry. After a few years in the practice of orthodontia he found the need to assist the oral-facial, speech and emotionally crippled children and youths. A survey and study of this class of handicapped people made apparent the necessity for a special clinic, and in response to a realization for this need, Dr. Cooper became the founder of the Cleft Palate Clinic of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, the first of its kind in the United States. No one is better qualified to understand the embarrassment, emotional disturbances and limitations in the opportunity for patients so afflicted and handicapped to gain a livelihood and a place in society than Dr. Herbert Kurtz Cooper. He is truly a pioneer in the correction of oral, facial and speech defects.

Dr. Cooper was born in Brownstown, Lancaster County, Pa., January 2, 1899. He received his early undergraduate training at Franklin and Marshall College and his professional education at the Dental School, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa., graduating in 1910.

In 1920 Dr. Cooper married Mercedes Miller of Lancaster. They are the parents of three children: G. Elizabeth, wife of Ross R. Long, D.D.S.; Herbert Jr., M.D.; and John, D.D.S.

After his six years of practice in Lititz, Dr. Cooper matriculated in the Dewey School of Orthodontia, New York City, completing the course in 1925. Since that time he has specialized in orthodontia in Lancaster, Pa., being extremely interested in persons afflicted with oral and facial deformities. He has diligently crusaded for help in the treatment of oral-facial cripples, as he termed them. In 1910 he received an appointment to the staff of the State Hospital for Crippled Children, Elizabethtown, Pa., and in 1913 he was appointed director of the Dental Department of

the Milton Hershey School, Hershey, Pa.

As Dr. Cooper became increasingly aware of the general lack of knowledge for the treatment of cleft palate and cleft lip, he focused his interest on investigation and study in that field. His conviction was the necessity for a specialized group approach to the proper prognosis, diagnosis and treatment of the condition in order to produce the ideal result. Following this theory a small group was formed in 1939, which became the nucleus for the future club. The project grew, so that in 1947 the clinic became an incorporated non-profit institution and received the Benjamin Award for meritorious service from the Pennsylvania State Medical Society. It is an Institutional Member of the American and Pennsylvania Hospital Association and has a Board of Directors of representative and responsible members of the community.

Dr. Cooper has served as President of the Dewey Alumni Society, the Lancaster County, Pennsylvania Fifth District, and the Pennsylvania State Dental Society. He is now Professor of Cleft Palate Therapy, School of Dentistry, University of Pennsylvania; a member of the Health Advisory Board, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; Chief Dental Consultant, Department of Medicine and Surgery, United State Veterans Administration; Consultant, Pennsylvania State Hospital for Crippled Children, Lancaster General Hospital and St. Joseph's Hospital, Lancaster. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Society for Crippled Children and Adults, and the Lancaster Hearing Aid Conservation Center, and is a member of the Board of Trustees of Linden Hall Seminary. He is an Honorary Member of the Lancaster Rotary Club, and in his professional affiliations is a Diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontists. Fellow in the American College of Dentists, New York Academy of Dentistry, Federation Dentaire Stomological Society of Philadelphia, Pa.

Among the awards he has received in his own community are the Elks Annual Award for Meritorious Services in the community, and the Moravian Church Award as the outstanding Layman. He received the degree of Doctor of Science from the University of Pennsylvania in 1953, and from Franklin and Marshall College in 1956.

Dr. Cooper is the author of many scientific papers, among them, "The Responsibility of the Orthodontist in Cleft Palate Problems," "Cleft Palate Dentistry's Opportunity," and "Integration of Professional Services in the Cleft Palate Problems."

Dr. Cooper is a member of the Ephrata Lodge No. 665, F.&A.M., and B.P.O.E. He holds membership in the Tucquan and Hamilton Clubs of Lancaster, is a member of the Moravian Church of Lititz and takes an active interest in Sunday School, serving as teacher of the Men's Bible Class.

The International Society for the Welfare of Cripples defines a crippled child as one whose activities may become so restricted by loss, defect or deformity of bone or muscle as to reduce his or her normal capacity for education or self-support. In the past and present much assistance has been given, and is being given to many types of handicapped persons. There is one group of the handicapped, however, who fit the foregoing

definition as completely as now accepted as crippled, who nevertheless as yet have received comparatively little consideration.

The crippling defect referred to is the oral-dental-facial and psychologic. It is the intention of every crippled children's program to help every child to be made whole and self-supporting. If he is lame he is made to walk so that he can get out into the world and become a useful citizen. It is reasonable, then, to expect that a person who has a facial and jaw deformity, either with or without a speech defect, should by all established standards be just as much in need of treatment. To be enabled to be self-supporting, a person must not only be able to walk but must have speaking ability and present an attractive appearance.

It must be recognized that the project of rehabilitation — of those with jaw, facial and speech defects — is possible only through coordination of all the allied specialties of medicine and dentistry for the successful treatment of such patients. To attain these objectives the Cleft Palate Clinic is staffed by the following departments: Medicine, Dentistry, Oral Hygiene, Speech Therapy, Laryngectomy and Research.

At the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Orthodontists in Boston, May 3, 1956, Dr. Cooper as Director of the Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic presented a paper entitled "Image Intensification with Cinefluorography and Sound Spectrograph as an Aid in Treatment Planning for the Post Operative Cleft Palate Patient." Although Dr. Cooper and his staff have been actively engaged for some time in original research on this new project, this occasion was the first formal presentation before the American Association of Orthodontists of its revolutionary development. It also marks a new epoch in history, wherein this vital subject will hold rank in the importance of consolidation and standardization of cleft palate surgery in the future.

Contemporaneously, during the past century there were two outstanding men whose brilliant work went far to contribute to the background and greatly foreshadow modern progress in this field which is undergoing such encouraging developments today. One was Norman W. Kingsley, M.D.S., D.D.S., 1850-1892; the other, Calvin Case, M.D.S., D.D.S., 1871-1923. Dr. Kingsley was known as the father of Orthodontia and his textbook, written in the late 70's and published in 1880, remains a valuable record and reference today.

Dr. Cooper's advent into this field resulted in a challenge, after being appointed to the staff of the Pennsylvania Hospital for Crippled Children in 1928, and as a consequence, in a series of observations of great dento-orthopedic deformities. In 1936, after listening to a lecture before the New York Society of Orthodontists by the late Dr. John Fitzgibbons of Holyoke, Mass., another brilliant star in the rising firmament of cleft palate therapy, Dr. Cooper compared the cleft palate case to other distocclusion and mesiocclusion as associated with other facial deformities.

Outstanding among several revelations of Dr. Cooper's cinefluorograph is the brilliance with which the oropharyngeal area is projected in motion with simultaneous sound recording. The other factor vital to the perfection of this technique, which deserves emphasis, is the remarkable

protection to the patient who is far inside the safety zone without the slightest danger of over exposure.

## DR. IRVIN V. UHLER

Dr. Irvin Valentine Uhler, the first dentist in Lancaster to specialize in exodontia and oral surgery, was born May 25, 1913 at Forks Church, Forks Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania; the son of Dr. Norman C. Uhler and Lelia Messinger Uhler.

Dr. Uhler was graduated from the Nazareth High School in June 1931. He continued his education at Muhlenberg College and at Temple University. He graduated from the Temple University School of Dentistry in June 1937 with the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery. After completing his studies at Temple University Dental School he served as an interne at the Allentown General Hospital, where he gained valuable experience in oral surgery and exodontia.

Dr. Uhler took post graduate work at Columbia University, New York City, and at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Medicine and School of Dentistry. He continued his studies of Dentistry at Loyola University School of Dentistry, the Kellogg Institute of Graduate and Post Graduate School of Dentistry, University of Michigan, Western Reserve University School of Medicine, and the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology.

In 1938 Dr. Uhler began the practice of dentistry at 110 North Eighth Street, Allentown, Pa., and remained there until 1943. While in Allentown he was appointed a member of the staff of the Allentown General Hospital and the Sacred Heart Hospital. During World War II he entered the United States Navy as a Dental Officer, serving at Bainbridge, Maryland; Dansville, Rhode Island; Port Hueneme, California; and the United States Navy Hospital, Manila, P.I. Upon his return to civilian activities he began the specialized Practice of Oral Surgery at 548 North Duke Street, Lancaster, Pa., on July 1, 1948. He received appointments on the staff of the Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic, Lancaster General Hospital, Lancaster Heart Haven, and the Graduate School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa. He was honored by being named Consultant at St. Joseph's Hospital, Lancaster, Pa.; Ephrata Community Hospital, Ephrata, Pa.; Good Samaritan Hospital, Lebanon, Pa.; Veterans Administration Hospital, Lebanon, Pa.; Hershey Community Hospital, Hershey, Pa.; and the Milton Hershey School of Hershey.

Dr. Uhler's scientific publications are: "Bilateral Dentigerous Cysts," published in the Journal of the American Dental Association, Vol 37, December 1948, page 729; "A Conservative Technic for the Management of a Common Type of Impacted Mandibular Third Molar," in the Journal of Oral Surgery, Vol. 9, October 1951, page 281; "Cysts of the Maxilla," Pennsylvania Dental Journal, May 1953, page 17; "Surgical Correction of Malocclusion," Penna. Dental Journal, April 1955, page 3; "Massive Osteoma of Mandible," Journal of Oral Surgery, Oral Medicine and Oral

Pathology, Vol. 16, Nov. 1958, p. 599; "How Blue Shield Has Affected My Practice," Journal of Oral Surgery, Vol. 17, July 1959, page 52; "Olfactory Neuroblastoma," Journal of Oral Surgery, Oral Medicine, Oral Pathology, Vol. 12, September 1959, p. 1040; "Decadron in Oral Surgery," New York State Dental Journal, Vol. 26, March 1960, p. 116.

Among additional scientific articles accepted for publication this year in the Journal of Oral Surgery are the following: "What Role Will Pre-payment Have On The Individual Dental Practice?", "The Surgical Management of the Loose Pre-Maxilla," "Surgical Preparation of Mouth for Immediate Dentures."

Dr. Uhler was made a Fellow of the American Society of Oral Surgeons in 1953; Fellow of the International College of Dentists, 1955; Fellow of the American College of Dentists, 1957; Diplomate of American Board of Oral Surgery, 1959. He lectured before the American Dental Association, American Public Health Association, American Hospital Association, National Health Council, American Society of Oral Surgeons, Middle Atlantic Society of Oral Surgeons, Philadelphia Society of Oral Surgeons, Metropolitan (New York) Society of Oral Surgeons, Baltimore City Dental Society, Lehigh Valley Dental Society, Harrisburg Dental Society, Reading Dental Society, Fourth and Fifth District Dental Societies of Pennsylvania, United States Army Dental Corps, United States Navy Dental Corps, Temple University, and Georgetown University.

Dr. Uhler was married to the former Jean Murray of Lancaster, Pa. He has two daughters: Lelia Uhler and Linda Jean Uhler. He is a member of the First Reformed Church of Lancaster, the Hamilton Club, Lancaster Country Club, Andrew Hershey Lodge F. and A.M. Reading Consistory, Rajah Temple, and Lehigh Valley Club. He resides at 2610 Old Orchard Road, Mondamin Farm, Lancaster, Pa.

## MAURICE P. GROSS

The dental laboratory, now an industry of highly skilled technicians, had its origin in the offices of the practising dentists. For many years the dentists had to do their own technical work, such as full and partial dentures, crowns and bridges, according to the procedures then known. As progress was made in dentistry it became necessary to employ technicians to construct the various types of restorations needed, under the supervision of the dentist.

When the dental technician separated from the dentist's office in the latter part of the second decade of the twentieth century, a number of laboratory enterprises were begun. Due to the fact that the knowledge and experience of many of the technicians was too limited, most of the laboratories had a brief history.

Mr. Maurice P. Gross, son of John W. Gross of Eyesterville, York County, was born December 7, 1898. He attended the public schools of his community. Being of an industrious nature and as a means of earning additional money to acquire an education, he was a newsboy for a number of years. He entered the High School of the city of York and made

an excellent scholastic record. Because of enlistment in the service of his country during World War I, he did not complete his work as a senior in the High School. He was on active duty for two years in France.

Dr. T. R. Hoffman of York became interested in Maurice Gross, and through him Gross made other and valuable contacts, one of whom was Mr. J. K. Horning of Harrisburg, Pa., who had a dental laboratory. Mr. Gross later became associated with Dr. Walter Lotz and was with him almost two years in World War I, where he acquired a comprehensive knowledge of mechanical dentistry.

Mr. Gross was a highly ambitious man, full of energy and a determination to succeed. He realized some of the difficult problems of engaging in business for himself, but that did not prevent him from coming to Lancaster in 1921 to pioneer the opening of the first dental laboratory in this city. He had rare ability as a technician, keen powers of observation, and because of his accuracy in the requirements of the dentist's prescriptions for the construction of many and varied restorations, he was soon considered an expert in the technical field of dentistry. After he had acquired a thorough knowledge of and experience in the several branches of the dental mechanical industry, he established separate departments for dentures, crowns and bridges and dental ceramics. He employed men of intelligence with a high degree of natural mechanical ability. With their excellent cooperation he developed an enterprise in Lancaster which employed about fifty men — a project which proved of infinite value to the dentists, since they could devote more time to the many patients who needed their services.

Mr. Gross was an assiduous worker and a good student. During the course of work as owner of the Gross Laboratory he took advanced training in laboratory techniques with the Coe Laboratory in Chicago. He acquired the knowledge and ability for constructing appliances for bite-opening cases and special work in designing and making restorations for patients in the Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic. He was a member of the Clinic for many years. His excellent record of accomplishments in technical dentistry was of infinite value to the dentists of the city.

To present a record of the dental pioneers in the City and County of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, without the history of the pioneer dental technician, would not be fair recognition or just credit to the one who has done so much good for the dental profession and the community.