

Presidential History of the SDDS

"What's past is prologue"
-William Shakespeare, *The Tempest*.

Researching our history through the past presidents of the SDDS brought back a memory from a day at the University of Buffalo School of Dental Medicine (back then known as SUNY at Buffalo Dental School) when Dr. Malvin E. Ring lectured to my class. Dr. Ring was a world renowned dental historian, but most importantly, he was from Brooklyn!

I will never forget at the end of the session how my classmates stood in line to have him autograph his book "Dentistry: An Illustrated History". At the time, I thought the line was too long and I would catch up to him another day. "Another day" never came and sadly my book, that I kept in mint condition, was never signed. Anyway, that is enough lamenting about my past missed moment that taught me a life lesson. Now, let us continue the SDDS presidential history.

Dr. Cornelius Ackerson Marvin was born in 1826 in Tappan, NY and died Dec. 15, 1906 at 80 years of age. Dr. Marvin began practicing dentistry in 1853 on Clinton Street in Brooklyn and was considered one of the best known dentists of "old Brooklyn". He was the third President of Second District Dental Society in 1871. He was elected Vice



DR. CORNELIUS A. MARVIN
President of the Dental Society of the State of New York (DSSNY) in 1870.

Dr. C. A. Marvin was a very respected orator and read his paper entitled "Dental Conservatism" at the second annual session of DSSNY and "Needs of the Profession" at the third annual session of DSSNY. Dr. Marvin won the best essay prize for this paper and was awarded \$35. This was the first time a "Prize Essay" was awarded. He was such an impressive speaker that his colleagues referred to him as the "silver tongued orator of Brooklyn"

On Friday March 1, 1867 at 8PM, at the 10th annual commencement of the Pennsylvania College of Dental Surgery, Dr. Marvin received the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) with his friend and

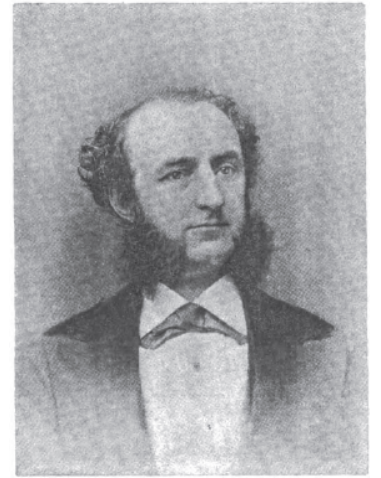
first president of the SDDS, Dr. W. B. Hurd. At the time, the DDS was a two year degree and five years of previous practice could even replace one of the two years. Another degree category that only graduated a total of 36 dentists at the College was for dentists practicing since 1852. These dentists had to provide a thesis and be examined by faculty, but did not have to attend lectures. This is the path to degree that was taken by both Dr. Marvin and Dr. Hurd. Interestingly, this was the same year that New York University Dental School (NYU) had its first annual commencement at Steinway Hall on March 6, 1867.

Dr. Marvin was on the first Board of Trustees and Directors of the NYU College of Dentistry when it was founded in 1865. He was Chair of Mechanical Dentistry from 1873-1877. At this time a two year course for a degree was required with the didactic portion only requiring five months of the year. Dr. Marvin was also appointed in 1873 as a visiting lecturer by the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Marvin was a 33rd degree Mason and a past Grand Master. He was also a member of the Knights Templar of the DeWitt Clinton Council. He belonged to the First Congregational Church in Montclair, New Jersey where he was a Trustee. He was also an officer of the Republican Club.

Dr. C. A. Marvin was President of DSSNY in 1872 and then again in 1876. He holds the

distinction of being the only President at the state level to hold office in nonconsecutive years. Although, this achievement is common at the district component level, it is the only time seen at the state level. The only president of the United States of America



DR. ORVILLE E. HILL

to accomplish this was Grover Cleveland. Dr. Orville Ernest Hill was born on Oct. 2, 1832 in Tioga, Pennsylvania and died on June 2, 1902 of Kidney disease (back then known as Bright's disease). Dr. O. E. Hill was the 4th President of the Second District Dental Society in 1872 and the 20th president for two terms in 1892 and 1893. This was a 20 and 21 year gap! He followed the return of Dr. L.S. Straw (2nd and 19th president of SDDS) who also returned 21 years after his first term. Dr. O.E. Hill was one of the first eight delegates chosen to represent

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Presidential History of the SDDS

The Gift of Giving

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the SDDS when the Dental Society of the State of New York (DSSNY) was first organized on June 30, 1868. He later became President of DSSNY in 1880 and 1881.

Dr. O.E. Hill began practicing in Brooklyn in 1861 on Clinton Street, down the block from Dr. CA Marvin (3rd President of SDDS). A year later he invited almost all Brooklyn dentists and other nearby dentists to meet in his office for social and professional interaction. From that meeting, the Brooklyn Dental Association was formed. For the five years of its existence, it was considered the most constructive and dynamic society of its time. Dr. O. E. Hill received his MDS degree in 1873 after successfully passing the State Board of Censors examination.

In 1867, the Brooklyn Dental Association broke up and one group of dentists formed the New York Odontological Society. The other group formed The Brooklyn Society of Dental Science and Art. The Brooklyn Society of Dental Science and Art changed its name in 1869 to the Brooklyn Dental Society. That year, Dr. O. E. Hill became its third president, and the society incorporated. He utilized his knowledge and taste for art to help design its corporate seal. One purpose of the new society was to establish, what was believed to be at the time, the first Dental Infirmary in the country to treat dental disease for the poor at no charge. This was mainly due to Dr. Hill's successful lobbying of the legislature for \$1,500 a year to support the infirmary. The infirmary was opened on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11AM to 1PM. He was also on the Board of Managers of the Brooklyn Dental Infirmary when it began.

He never married and his home was said to be unique in decorations and furnishings and Dr. Hill was known as a connoisseur of fine rugs, draperies, portières (hangings placed over a door or over the doorless entrance to a room), bic-a-brac and various other beautiful art creations. He was also a member and president of numerous clubs such as the Centennial, Crescent, Athletic, and Constitution and the Amaranth Dramatic Society.

Dr. O E Hill was one of nine dentists that were responsible for the publication of what was considered the first dental journal "for dentists by dentists" called the



DR. ORVILLE E. HILL

Independent Practitioner in 1883. Dr. O. E. Hill was one of three dentists chosen to be on its executive committee. The journal was initially established in Baltimore in 1879 as a combined Medical and Dental Journal with the first published volume in 1880. However, in 1883, it converted exclusively into a dental journal and relocated to New York.

- Stuart L. Segelnick, DDS, MS, 131st President of the SDDS

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The children greeted us every morning with a smile and wave as they lined up at 8AM to receive oral hygiene instruction, which consisted of brushing and flossing. Each received a care package, which included a toothbrush, floss and toothpaste. The next step was diagnosis and then from there the children lined up for the treatment that was needed. Only a few radiographs were taken due to the cost and limited materials. It was an eight-hour day, but through this process, we were able to provide the much-needed care and see as many patients as possible. We can only imagine how each child felt. They are between the ages of five and eleven years old. Their parents are not with them as they proceed through the channels to provide them with the care that is needed. The children know that they're receiving optimal care and, although excited, are apprehensive because of the unknown. They also do not fully understand what

is being said because of the language barrier. This barrier only adds to the fear of the procedures that are to be performed.

To our dismay, the children's oral hygiene was extremely poor. Our clinical findings consisted of tenacious supra and subgingival calculus with an indication for scaling and root planing, visible decay, visible pulp exposures, fractured teeth, residual root tips and staining. Unfortunately, in Vietnam the tap water is undrinkable and therefore cannot be fluoridated. The above conditions are the direct result.

We, as dental hygienists, who experienced this first hand and lived in poverty for one week found it to be amazing, but humbling. Vietnam is one of the many countries in such desperate need of dental care. Funding is limited and volunteers are few. We hope more volunteers will come forward to assist in providing optimal care for children around the world.



The makeshift dental operator set-up in the school utilized whatever was available.



The schoolchildren await their turn to be seen by the dental volunteers.

GREATER NEW YORK DENTAL MEETING 2012 SUBCOMMITTEE SIGN UP

The Greater New York Dental Meeting is sponsored by two components, the Second District Dental Society and the New York County Dental Society. It provides an opportunity for its members and their hygienist's and office managers to be part of the largest Dental Meeting in the United States. Our success is attributed to the many people involved in the production and the administration of the Meeting.

If you, your hygienist or office manager would like to volunteer to be on a Committee for the 2012 Meeting scheduled for Friday, November 23, 2012 through Wednesday, November 28, 2012 please complete the information below and fax to (212) 398-6934, mail (Greater New York Dental Meeting, 570 Seventh Avenue, Suite 800, New York, NY 10018), or scan and e-mail (info@gnydm.com) the form to our office. **We will pre-register you, your staff and family for the Meeting in advance of general registration.**

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Please check ONLY the day and time you would like to serve. If you plan on volunteering for multiple sessions, please number the second session 2, the third session 3, etc. **Please note: This is NOT for alternative sessions, but for additional sessions.**

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