



DENTAL FACTS

—The first recorded reference to dentistry is a Babylonian cuneiform inscription from about 2,000 B.C., exorcising the "tooth-worm," which was believed to be the cause of dental decay until as late as the 18th century.

— In the 18th century full sets of dentures were carved by goldsmiths, who set human or animal teeth in an ivory base. The human teeth were sometimes obtained from corpses by body snatchers.

— The cost of false teeth was brought within the reach of most people in 1855 when Charles Goodyear made the hard rubber compound vulcanite, which was used for artificial dentures.

— The toothpaste market currently amounts to well over \$300 million per year in consumer sales — more than double its size in 1955.

— A Polish scientist, Dr. Jadwiga Pawlowska, discovered in the early 1950's that the chemical strontium chloride has a desensitizing effect on hypersensitive teeth. The safe, non-toxic compound that blocks the stimuli that causes the pain of dental sensitivity is now available in the therapeutic dentifrice Sensodyne.

— More than 500 oral diseases, abnormal conditions and oral manifestations of general disorders can wreak havoc in the mouth. Surveys indicate that tooth decay and periodontal diseases affect an overwhelming majority of people in all parts of the world, to the extent that they may be regarded as continuous worldwide epidemics.

— There are an estimated 500,000 dentists in the world. Some areas have only one dentist per million people. In the United States there is one per 2,000 inhabitants.



In 16th century Europe, a *Chinaman* was not likely to be of Oriental ancestry. The word was used then to describe merchants who sold china.



Hors d'oeuvre (pronounced or-DERV) originally meant "outside of the work;" now it means food served outside of the meal!