

Dental Training Program at Edgcumbe Proves Important

For over 10 years, there has been some type of a dental training program at the Mt. Edgcumbe Public Health Service Hospital.

Each year, improvements have been made to better the program offered to the Natives of Alaska and American Indians. Because the main purpose of the program is to offer an opportunity to train students so they can better serve their own

people we have sought to provide the best training possible.

This training enables each student to take a national certification examination following the training.

The title "Certified Dental Assistant" indicates the student has met certain educational requirements, and therefore as a Certified Dental Assistant, the student is well equipped to help the dentist do his job and to

keep the profession of dental assisting in good standing.

This past year, steps have been taken so that the Mt. Edgcumbe PHS School can receive full accreditation by the American Dental Association and ensure that each student can take the certification examination.

One of the biggest steps has been to make the program a part of Sheldon Jackson College. Now the dental auxiliary train-

ing program is a course offered at Sheldon Jackson with each class given credits to be used toward an Associate of Arts Degree.

The staff at Sheldon Jackson has undeniably done a great job in helping the girls function as good students. During the past two years, the program has had a provisional accreditation with full accreditation pending the successful accomplishment of the

recommendation of the American Dental Association.

Becoming a part of an institution of higher learning, building a dental laboratory, more money in the budget, and providing a structured course outline of the entire training program were only four of the several recommendations which have been met. We are presently awaiting the final outcome of the A.D.A.'s decision to fully accredit the program.

In the meantime, the program has functioned well this year with a near capacity enrollment. The program is now half-way completed.

The Capping Ceremony is a symbol of a certain academic and professional level of achievement for the student.

Come May 11, 1973, hopefully all will have completed the program, taken the certification examination, and will be ready for job placement in the Indian Health Service, or in private practice.