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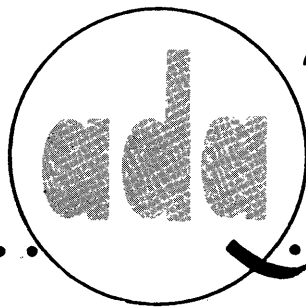


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Recommended Citation

American Dental Association, "ADA News Letter - 05/15/1951" (1951). *ADA News Letter*. 82.
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News Letter

Vol. 4, No. 11 - May 15, 1951

A.D.A. URGES CONGRESS TO AUTHORIZE \$1,785,600 IN GRANTS TO STATES FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN STARTING COMMUNITY FLUORIDATION PROGRAMS

The A.D.A. today (May 15) urged Congress to authorize \$1,785,600 in grants to states for technical assistance in the inauguration of community fluoridation programs. The Association also urged appropriations for construction of a separate building for the National Institute of Dental Research at Bethesda, Md., as authorized by Congress three years ago. In testimony prepared for the Senate Appropriations Committee, Dr. Allen O. Gruebbel, of Chicago, secretary of the A.D.A. Council on Dental Health, said the results of fluoridation studies "indicate that its continuous use by children will reduce the incidence of decay to a point which more than justifies the cost of fluoridating the water supplies that are deficient in fluorine content." He also stressed the role of dental health in national defense. One-fifth of the persons rejected for World War II service were turned down because of dental disease until it was found necessary to eliminate all dental requirements, Dr. Gruebbel said. The result, he pointed out, was extensive dental treatment within the armed forces. "It resulted in the entry into the armed forces during World War II of 22,000 dentists -- about one-third of all dentists then licensed to practice," Dr. Gruebbel said. "It had another effect. It created an almost incomprehensible amount of service-connected dental cases, the treatment of which has been costing the Federal government through the Veterans Administration in excess of \$40,000,000 per year....It is obvious that if the incidence of dental decay could be reduced, more men would be better trained in the armed forces because of time they would not spend in dental clinics; the cost in dollars to the government would be reduced because not nearly so many dentists would be required to give treatment to the armed forces; the future backlog of service-connected expensive veteran's dental treatment would not occur and the over-all cost of dental treatment to the general population would decrease considerably." Dr. Gruebbel said that under the A.D.A.-proposed program, the funds would be used (1) to recruit and train technical personnel, (2) to provide educational material on technical phases of the programs, (3) to establish systems for keeping records and for periodic evaluation of the programs and (4) to encourage and assist the states in giving financial assistance to communities.

URGES SPEEDY ACTION FOR DENTAL RESEARCH BUILDING

\$2,000,000 for this purpose was authorized by the 80th Congress, of which only \$100,000 was actually appropriated for architectural plans. Pointing out that construction has started on a building for other National Institutes of Health, Dr. Gruebbel said that "at the present time the dental research program is widely scattered." He added, "To provide effective research it is necessary that a central headquarters with adequate equipment be made available as soon as possible."

In the request for appropriations for construction of a building to house the National Institute of Dental Research, Dr. Gruebbel recalled that

ARMY CALLS 105 MEDICAL OFFICERS FOR JUNE -- DENTISTS NOT INCLUDED

A formal call for 105 medical reserve officers to report for active duty in June has been issued by the Army. Dentists were not included in the call -- the first to be made by the Army for professional health manpower that does not include both physicians and dentists. Faced with a serious shortage of medical officers, the Department of Defense earlier announced that it would begin to draft physicians in Priority I during July unless the number of volunteers for

medical commissions was increased substantially. (See A.D.A. News Letter, May 1, 1951). In an announcement issued May 1, the Defense Department pointed out that its new call for Priority I medical officers -- those who were trained at government expense or deferred during World War II to complete their educations and who have had less than 90 days of active military service -- was the third to be issued since last December. The Army also announced in a special directive that its program of commissioning 300 dental students as second lieutenants had been terminated April 12 except for those students already in the program. The program provides for two years active duty as a first lieutenant after graduation.

JUNE ISSUE OF A.D.A. JOURNAL WILL BE DEVOTED TO SPECIAL REPORT ON DENTAL FOCI OF INFECTION

The June issue of The Journal of the American Dental Association will be devoted to an evaluation of the effect of dental foci of infection on general health. The issue will feature a special report prepared under the direction of Dr. Kenneth A. Easlick, Ann Arbor, Mich., a member of the faculty of the University of Michigan School of Dentistry, in consultation with 12 dental and medical scientists. The report is divided into six general fields of research findings, including the distinction between focus of infection and focal infection, the mechanism of focal infection, the diagnosis of focal infection from nonvital or diseased teeth, an evaluation of the role of dental foci of infection in specific types of body disease, the pituitary-adrenal mechanism and disease and, finally, summaries of opinions on the importance of focal infection in systemic disease.

ANTI-TRUST SUIT FILED AGAINST MAKERS OF LUXENE 44

An anti-trust suit has been filed against Luxene, Inc., of 118 E. 25th St., New York City, makers of the Vinylite denture base material. In a civil suit filed April 27 in Federal district court in New York, the U. S. Department of Justice charged the concern and a number of dental laboratories throughout the country with conspiring to maintain high prices for dentures made from the plastic Luxene 44. The complaint accused the defendant of refusing to sell the product "to any dental laboratory other than a Luxene-selected laboratory." The suit seeks an injunction against price fixing of any artificial dentures made from the Luxene-produced material.

DENTAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT UP 42 PER CENT IN TEN YEARS

Total undergraduate dental student enrollment in 1950-51 was 11,891, a 5 per cent increase over last year, and a 42 per cent increase over 1940-41, according to information in the Dental Students' Register -- 1950-51 published this week by the A.D.A. Council on Dental Education. This year's total included 3,226 freshmen, 2,975 sophomores, 2,881 juniors and 2,809 seniors, it was pointed out by Dr. Shailer A. Peterson, secretary of the Council. In addition, there were 2,679 graduate, post-graduate and special students enrolled in the nation's 42 dental schools. The twenty-six schools for dental hygienists also showed an increased enrollment, with a total of 1,454 students, up 33 per cent over 1949-50. Eight new schools offered hygienist courses this year. Copies may be obtained without charge upon request to the Council.

NEW FOUNDATION FORMED TO RAISE FUNDS FOR MEDICAL SCHOOLS

Formation of a new philanthropic foundation to raise funds for medical schools is scheduled to be completed tomorrow (May 16) at New York. To be known as the National Fund for Medical Education, the new foundation will operate from 475 Fifth Ave., New York. Funds for medical schools raised by the A.M.A. during recent months will be distributed through the new organization. Goal for the first year has been set at \$5,000,000.

FOUR CITIES FILE BID FOR 1954 ANNUAL SESSION

Invitations for the 1954 annual session of the A.D.A. have been received from Atlantic City, Miami, New Orleans and San Francisco. The convention city will be selected by the House of Delegates this fall.

HOUSING BUREAU TAKES APPLICATIONS FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS FOR 92ND A.D.A. ANNUAL SESSION IN WASHINGTON OCT. 15-18

A score of associated dental organizations will meet in Washington, D. C., in conjunction with the 92nd annual session of the A.D.A. to be held Oct. 15-18 at the nation's capital. Assignments to hotels were announced this week for a number of associated groups. The A.D.A. Housing Bureau has officially opened at 204 Star Building, Washington, D. C., and has begun taking applications for hotel reservations for the convention. Application forms are printed in the May issue of The Journal of the American Dental Association, together with a map showing the location of 34 leading hotels where accommodations have been pledged. Members are urged to make applications immediately in order that reservations may be obtained at the hotels of their choice. The House of Delegates will meet at the Statler and scientific sessions and exhibits will be held at the National Guard Armory. For meetings of associated dental groups, hotel assignments and dates of the meetings are as follows:

American Academy of Periodontology, Mayflower, Oct. 11-13; American Association of Dental Editors, Statler, Oct. 13; American Association of Dental Examiners, Washington, Oct. 12-13; American Association of Public Health Dentists, Hay-Adams, Oct. 14; American College of Dentists, Mayflower, Oct. 14; American Dental Assistants Association, Wardman Park, Oct. 15-18; American Dental Hygienists Association, Washington, Oct. 14-18; American Denture Society, Shoreham, Oct. 13-14; American Society of Dentistry for Children, Willard, Oct. 12-14; American Society of Oral Surgeons, Wardman Park, Oct. 10-13; Association of American Women Dentists, Lafayette, Oct. 14-15; International College of Dentists, Shoreham, Oct. 14; National Association of Seventh Day Adventist Dentists, Twenty-Four Hundred, Oct. 12-14; Alpha Omega, Shoreham, Oct. 14-15; Delta Sigma Delta, Shoreham, Oct. 12-15; Psi Omega, Carlton, Oct. 15, and Xi Psi Phi, Washington, Oct. 15.

Membership of the subcommittees of the committee on local arrangements, headed by Dr. David J. Fitzgibbon, of Washington, has been completed. The vice-chairman is Dr. George B. Clendenin, of Bethesda, Md. The honorary chairmen, all past A.D.A. presidents, are Dr. C. Willard Camalier and Dr. Sterling V. Mead, both of Washington, and Dr. J. Ben Robinson, of Baltimore, Md. The advisory chairman is Dr. Daniel F. Lynch, of Washington, Fourth District trustee. Appointed as chairmen and vice-chairmen, respectively, of special committees, all of Washington, are Brig. Gen. Louis H. Renfrow, associated groups; Dr. Walter L. Smallwood and Dr. Joseph A. Madden, entertainment; Dr. Edward D. Leifer, information; Mrs. Walter L. Smallwood, ladies' activities; Dr. Francis J. Fabrizio and Dr. Walter A. Rath, publicity, and Dr. E. Milburn Colvin Jr. and Dr. James J. Greeves, reception.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TAKES LEAD AS RELIEF FUND REACHES \$89,914

Southern California dentists led the entire nation in the 1950-51 A.D.A. Relief Fund drive with 213 per cent of their quota contributed by May 14 as the national total reached \$89,914.33, a new record. In the past two weeks, Southern California dentists contributed an additional \$556, bringing the society's total to \$9,413.75. New York dentists contributed an additional \$237 in the first half of May to remain first in dollar contributions with a total of \$10,674.65. With a month and a half to go in the \$100,000 drive, 23 societies had topped their quotas. Besides Southern California, they were: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, the Panama Canal Zone, Tennessee, Utah and Washington.

SEMANTICS EXPERT TO SPEAK AT CONFERENCE FOR DENTAL LIBRARIANS

Mr. Samuel I. Hayakawa, lecturer in semantics at the University of Chicago and author of the book Language in Thought and Action, will speak at a nation-wide conference for dental librarians in the Central Office June 25. Topic of the conference, which is sponsored by the A.D.A. Bureau of Library and Indexing Service and its advisory committee, will be nomenclature and other problems of the dental library. Dr. Donald A. Washburn, director of the Bureau, will be chairman.

DR. WALTER H. SCHERER, FORMER A.D.A. PRESIDENT, DIES

Dr. Walter H. Scherer, of Houston, Tex., who was president of the American Dental Association from 1944 to 1946, died May 12 following a long illness. Dr. Scherer, a native of Newport, Ky., had practiced dentistry in Texas since 1900. For many years he had been active in Association affairs. He was a former president of the American Academy of Periodontology, the Houston Dental Society and the Texas State Dental Society. He had also served as a member of the Board of Regents of the University of Texas. Funeral services were held in Houston May 15.

FOUR A.D.A. DELEGATES NAMED FOR F.D.I. MEETING

The 39th annual meeting of the Federation Dentaire Internationale will open June 9 in Brussels, Belgium, and will continue through June 17. The nine-day meeting will include table clinics, a business session, and the presentation of scientific papers by members from all parts of the world. Representing the A.D.A. at the meeting will be Rear Adm. Alfred W. Chandler, of Washington, D. C., A.D.A. vice-president; Dr. Bruce Forsyth, also of Washington, chief dental officer, U. S. Public Health Service; Dr. Wilson K. Fisher, of Evanston, Ill., and Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, of Chicago, A.D.A. secretary.

TOTAL A.D.A. MEMBERSHIP REACHES 68,033

At the end of April, total membership in the A.D.A. reached 68,033, a drop of 1,852 over the total for the corresponding date of a year ago. The number of active and life members as of April 30 was 59,210, a drop of 2,903 from the total of 62,113 recorded on April 30, 1950. Members in other categories as of April 30 were: student members, 8,615, a gain of 969; affiliate (foreign) 199, a drop of 19; associate, 3, a gain of 1; and honorary, 6, no change.

DR. W. RANDOLPH LOVELACE TO HEAD ARMED FORCES MEDICAL POLICY COUNCIL

The appointment of Dr. W. Randolph Lovelace II, of Albuquerque, N. M., as chairman of the Armed Forces Medical Policy Council, effective July 1, was announced last week by Secretary of Defense George Marshall. Dr. Lovelace, a member of the council, succeeds Dr. Richard L. Meiling, of Columbus, O., whose resignation becomes effective June 30. The new chairman is a colonel in the Air Force Reserve. He is head of the section on surgery and a member of the board of governors of Lovelace Clinic in Albuquerque. The dentist member of the council is Dr. James P. Hollers, of San Antonio, Tex.

BRIEFS IN THE NEWS

Maj. Gen. George Ellis Armstrong has been nominated as surgeon general of the Army to succeed Maj. Gen. Raymond L. Bliss June 1. Gen. Armstrong, 51, has been deputy since 1947. The Army is seeking to expand its Nurse Corps to 7,700, an increase of 3,000 from its present strength....Dr. Walter H. Wright, dean of the New York University College of Dentistry, will receive the Sigma Epsilon Delta annual award May 26 at the fraternity's golden jubilee convention in Averill, N. Y., for "untiring and meritorious service to the dental profession."....Dr. Julian S. Bernhard, of Shreveport, secretary of the Louisiana State Dental Society, has been appointed to the board of administrators of the Confederate Memorial Medical Center. He is the first dentist to become a member of the hospital's governing board....Baylor University College of Dentistry at Dallas, Tex., recently published the first issue of a new quarterly, Baylor Dental Journal. The editor is Dean George L. Powers....A new series of 40 black and white slides illustrating the four main types of cleft palate and results of treatment can be obtained from the A.D.A. Order Department for a rental fee of \$1.50 a day or \$3.50 a week....Although 85 per cent of Seattle, Wash., children think candy is bad for the teeth, 83 per cent continue to eat it, a recent survey by the Seattle Dental Health Committee, an organization of civic and health leaders, revealed....The Veterans Administration has begun mailing \$685,000,000 in checks to the 8,000,000 holders of National Service Life Insurance policies. Payment of this second dividend is expected to take a year.