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 *News Letter*

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Vol. 5, No. 10 - May 1, 1952

A.D.A. SUBCOMMITTEE ON CIVIL DEFENSE DRAFTS FOUR-POINT PROGRAM -- MEASURES FOR CLOSE TIES WITH MEDICAL PROFESSION ALSO RECOMMENDED

A four-point program for civil defense organization and steps for close relations with the medical profession in carrying out civil defense programs were recommended by the A.D.A. subcommittee on civil defense at a meeting last Saturday (April 26) at the Central Office. Recommended as its course for the immediate future were (1) encouragement of organization of state committees, (2) creation of an administrative blueprint for guidance of constituent and component societies, (3) development of suggested action programs for state and local societies and (4) establishment of an information program. These recommendations will be submitted to the parent A.D.A. Special Committee on Emergency Dental Service. Dr. David E. Hunn, of Troy, N. Y., chairman of the subcommittee, pointed out that the civil defense movement appears to have originated at the local level without any clear lines of progression to the state or federal level of government. He reported that results of a questionnaire sent to constituent societies showed that 15 states were actively organized, 15 nominally organized and the remainder indicated no organization. Dr. Russell W. Bunting, dental consultant to the Federal Civil Defense Administration, agreed that one of the chief problems facing civil defense is "development of a chain of command. However, in any guidance program the Civil Defense Administration develops, the value of dentistry's role is now recognized." Dr. Bunting also urged the organization of civil defense committees in every component society. Dr. Lloyd Rogers, of Detroit, a member of the subcommittee, described an outstanding program participated in actively by dentists in his city. He said the program is set up as a "wheel" arrangement. Members of the dental profession are integrated into the program as a "spoke-in-the-wheel" with dentists from outlying towns alerted to reporting quickly for first aid duty in the city should a catastrophe occur in Detroit, he said. Dr. Rogers added that dentists were being given instructions by oral surgeons at hospitals throughout the city in such technics as blood transfusions, resuscitation and administering anesthesia..

DENTIST URGED FOR EACH STATE DEFENSE HEALTH SERVICE UNIT

In urging close relations with the medical profession, the subcommittee proposed the appointment of a dentist to each state civil defense health service committee. It also considered participation in a medical civil defense conference to be conducted by the American Medical Association. Additionally, the subcommittee recommended that a dentist be appointed to each federal Civil Defense Administration regional office as director of dental activities and associate to the medical director. It also urged a system of advanced first aid training for all dentists by medical personnel. The subcommittee was to present these proposals at a joint meeting with the American Medical Association's Council on National Emergency Medical Service. In addition to Dr. Hunn, Dr. Bunting and Dr. Rogers, the A.D.A. meeting was attended by Dr. John R. Abel, of Beverly Hills, Calif., a member of the subcommittee; Dr. Rudolph W. Friedrich, of Plainfield, N.J., chairman of the A.D.A. Council on Federal Dental Services and Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, of Chicago, A.D.A. secretary.

ARMED FORCES TO CALL 4,000 NEW DENTAL OFFICERS BY JULY 1, 1953

Approximately 4,000 new dental officers will be needed by the Army, Navy and Air Force by July 1, 1953. The new officers are needed for replacement of those whose tours of duty are expiring and for projected increases in the size of the armed forces. The pool of Priority I dentists who were registered under the special dentist-physician draft act of 1950 has now been virtually exhausted and only 700 Priority II dentists remain to fill future calls. As a result, large numbers of dental reserve officers who were not required to register under the 1950 special draft act will face recall to active duty during the next year, it was said. Reserve officers will be called up in the following order: first, those who have had ASTP or V-12 training but who had no subsequent military service; second, ASTP and V-12 officers who had subsequent military service (to be called in inverse order of the number of months of service), and third, all other reserve officers. At present, there are about 1,100 Navy reserve officers who had V-12 training and only a small number of Army reserve officers with ASTP training. The Air Force has no reserve officers with ASTP training. It is also expected that calls will be made during the next 14 months for large numbers of dentists in Priority II of the special draft act, that is, those who have had no military service. Officials of the Council on Federal Dental Services urged all reserve officers to check their individual status so that they could plan ahead in the event they are called to active duty within the next several months. The Council will meet with dental corps chiefs in Washington May 11 to 13 to review the entire situation regarding dental manpower needs of the armed forces.

EXTENSION OF \$100-A-MONTH BONUS WINS COMMITTEE O.K.

Extension of the \$100-a-month bonus pay for dental officers in the armed forces was urged by the A.D.A. at a special hearing by the Senate preparedness subcommittee. Dr. J. Claude Earnest, of Monroe, La., member of the Council on Legislation, said that allowing the program to lapse would constitute a breach of contract. "Termination of the special pay for all officers," he said, "would be a deliberate breach of the condition of employment, freely established by the Congress, for the purpose of securing adequate numbers of competent, high-grade members of the medical and dental professions as career personnel in the armed forces." In his testimony, Dr. Earnest also pointed to the possibility that on the basis of the dentist-physician draft law incoming reserves would continue to be eligible for the special pay while regulars entering at the same time would be denied the bonus. Army Surgeon General George E. Armstrong, testifying at the same hearing, said that to repeal the program "would be most unjust treatment, a broken promise," and he added: "It would end voluntary officer procurement." Sen. Hunt (D., Wyo.), who presided at the hearing, introduced a bill (S. 3019) extending the special pay to July 1, 1953. A Senate subcommittee urged enactment of the Hunt Bill which now goes before the full Armed Services Committee. Without new Congressional action, the special pay would end in September.

AMERICAN BOARD OF DENTAL HEALTH SETS DATES FOR FIRST EXAMINATIONS

The American Board of Dental Public Health, newest certifying board in the dental profession, will hold its first examinations for applicants as specialists on Sept. 12-13 at St. Louis, it was announced this week by Dr. Philip E. Blackerby Jr., of Battle Creek, Mich., secretary-treasurer of the board. The examinations will immediately follow the annual meeting of the A.D.A. in St. Louis. The A.D.A. House of Delegates last October approved the board's requirements for certification on the recommendation of the Association's Council on Dental Education. The board was established in 1950 by the American Association of Public Health Dentists and the dental health section of the American Public Health Association. Purpose of the board is to study and create standards for the practice of dental public health and to issue to qualified dentists certificates of special knowledge and ability in preventive dentistry and dental public health. Information about the examination and application forms may be obtained from Dr. Blackerby at 250 Champion St., Battle Creek.

ASSOCIATION CONFERS WITH UMW FUND ON IMPROVED DENTAL PROGRAM

Assurance that the dental program under the United Mine Workers Welfare and Retirement Fund was being reorganized was given last Friday (April 25) at a conference between Association representatives and officials of the Fund. The conference was requested at the direction of the A.D.A. Board of Trustees as a result of a number of complaints from constituent and component society officers about the quality of service that could be rendered under the UMW program. Fund officials also agreed to two other recommendations made by A.D.A. representatives. They agreed to provide a detailed written statement of the union's dental program to the Association and they said a member of the dental profession would be appointed to the Fund's national advisory committee. The A.D.A. proposals were embodied in a seven-point program drafted by the Council on Dental Health in a series of conferences with state dental society officers in mining regions. On one point, the Fund spokesmen rejected a proposal to consider establishing fee schedules on a state or local basis through negotiations with dental societies. Representing the Fund at the meeting, which was held in its headquarters at Washington, D. C., were Miss Josephine Roche, one of the three trustees of the Fund; Dr. Warren Draper, its medical director; Dr. Philip Wood, the dental director, and Dr. John T. Morrison and Dr. Lorin E. Kerr, members of the Fund's medical staff. Representing the Association were Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, A.D.A. secretary; Dr. W. Earle Craig, Third District trustee; Dr. C. Willard Camalier, assistant secretary, and Dr. Allen O. Gruebbel, secretary of the Council on Dental Health.

A.D.A. SURVEY OF THE NATION'S DENTAL NEEDS TO BEGIN MAY 5

The American Dental Association's nation-wide survey of dental needs will get under way Monday (May 5) with the mailing of questionnaires to nearly 25,000 dentists. The survey, which is being conducted by the Bureau of Economic Research and Statistics, will provide information on the size and extent of the national dental problem. It will also furnish data for comparison with figures gathered in a similar study in 1940. Each dentist will be asked to record the unmet dental needs of the first ten patients who come into his office after noon of Wednesday, May 14. All dentists who receive the questionnaires are earnestly requested to cooperate fully so that a complete picture of the nation's dental needs can be assured.

A.D.A.-SPONSORED V.A. DENTAL BILL INTRODUCED IN CONGRESS

An A.D.A.-sponsored bill to give a greater degree of administrative authority to the dental division within the Veterans Administration's Department of Medicine and Surgery was introduced in Congress last week. The bill (H.R. 7505) was presented by Rep. Allen (D., La.). The measure creates the position of chief dental director with responsibility for establishing and maintaining standards and developing training programs. Under the measure, the director would also have expanded authority in appointing, promoting and transferring personnel and he would have control over research programs concerned with improving the quality of dental care for veterans. Consultation with the chief dental director on all matters pertaining to the dental health of veterans would be mandatory. The bill also would make chiefs of dental service at V.A. hospitals, regional and subregional offices and other field units responsible, through the manager, to the chief dental director. Increased authority in the preparation of budgets and supervision of funds are proposed for the chief dental director in the bill. The bill also would give the director authority to make periodic recommendations regarding personnel needs, including auxiliary personnel as well as dentists.

DR. F. A. HENNY NAMED NEW EDITOR OF JOURNAL OF ORAL SURGERY

Dr. Frederick A. Henny, of Detroit, has been appointed editor of the Journal of Oral Surgery by the A.D.A. Board of Trustees. He succeeds Dr. Reed O. Dingman, of Ann Arbor, Mich., who resigned. Dr. Henny, who is an associate surgeon in the division of oral surgery at the Henry Ford Hospital, has been an associate editor of the publication for the past three years. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan School of Dentistry.

DR. E. G. SLOMAN, SPEAKER OF HOUSE OF DELEGATES, IS DEAD

Dr. Ernest G. Sloman, of San Francisco, speaker of the A.D.A. House of Delegates and dean of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, died late yesterday (April 30) at Fresno, Calif., following a short illness. He was 56 years old. Dr. Sloman, who had a long and distinguished career in organized dentistry, was elected speaker of the House at the 92nd annual session of the A.D.A. in Washington, D. C., last October. He was the immediate past president of the American Association of Dental Schools. In 1941-42 he served as second vice president of the A.D.A. Previously he had served 15 years as secretary of the San Francisco Dental Society. He was a former regent of the American College of Dentists and had held office in many other dental groups. At the time of his death Dr. Sloman was a member of the Commission on the Health Needs of the Nation appointed early this year by President Truman, and the Commission on Financing of Hospital Care.

NEW INFORMATION BULLETIN ON FLUORIDATION OF WATER SUPPLIES PUBLISHED

A new issue of the A.D.A. Information Bulletin, entitled "Fluoridation of Water Supplies-- A Job for the Local Community," has been mailed to all A.D.A. members. Two of the major fluoridation campaigns in which the issue was decided by referendum are reviewed in the publication and the charges raised by opponents of the public health measure are authoritatively answered. The role dental societies and civic groups can play in obtaining fluoridation for their communities is also described. Additional copies of the Bulletin may be obtained free of charge from the A.D.A. Bureau of Public Information.

H. LEON SNOW APPOINTED EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION

The appointment of H. Leon Snow, of Oklahoma City, Okla., as executive secretary of the Michigan State Dental Association, effective today, has been announced by Dr. Fred Wertheimer, of Lansing, secretary of the association. Since August, 1948, Mr. Snow has served as executive secretary of the Oklahoma State Dental Association and as managing editor of the association's Journal. He is a graduate of the Oklahoma School of Journalism and also attended Oklahoma A. and M. and East Texas State Teachers College. Mr. Snow succeeds the late Henry Gerber.

BRIEFS IN THE NEWS

Dr. Stanley D. Tylman, of Chicago, former chairman of the A.D.A. Council on International Relations, will give the keynote address at the First Dental Congress of Pan American Universities to be held May 4-10 at Buenos Aires. Twenty U. S. educators are expected at the meeting....Effective July 1, Wisconsin will become the second state to require a basic science test of all dentists as a preliminary to the state dental board examination. Rhode Island has a similar law....The Massachusetts Dental Society is now issuing its own publication called the Massachusetts Dental Society Journal. The new quarterly's editor is Dr. Cedric F. Harring, of Brookline....The school board of Scranton, Pa., has authorized sodium fluoride treatments for second and fifth grade pupils who have parental consent....Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, of Chicago, A.D.A. secretary, has been re-elected to the board of directors of the National Health Council for a three-year term....A section on dental and school health programs and a panel discussion of fluoridation of public water supplies will be presented at the 18th New England Health Institute to be held June 18-20 at the University of Connecticut at Storrs....Dr. LeRoy M. Ennis, of Philadelphia, A.D.A. president, and Dr. Harold W. Oppice, of Chicago, and Dr. Philip E. Adams, of Boston, past presidents, are members of the Board of Honorary Civilian Consultants to the Medical Department of the Navy that met last Friday at the Navy's Bureau of Medicine and Surgery in Washington with Rear Adm. Lamont Pugh....The superintendent of schools in Neenah, Wis., in a letter to parents has asked them to stop giving their children sweets to take to schools. In the future, the letter said, school parties will use such foods as milk, fruit juices, apples and pop corn....A record total of 1,833,000 children were born in the United States in 1951, an increase of 15,000 over the previous peak in 1947.