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News Letter

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Vol. 5, No. 13 - June 16, 1952

DR. JOHN W. KNUTSON SUCCEEDS DR. BRUCE FORSYTH AS CHIEF DENTAL OFFICER OF U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Dr. John W. Knutson has been named chief dental officer of the U.S. Public Health Service of the Federal Security Agency, it was announced last week by Surgeon General Leonard A. Scheele. Dr. Knutson succeeds Dr. Bruce Forsyth who earlier this month completed a four-year tour of duty as chief dental officer for the agency. Dr. Forsyth has been assigned to the Boston office of the F.S.A. where he will serve as the regional dental officer and consultant to the health departments of the New England states. Dr. Knutson, a native of Minnesota, formerly was chief of the division of dental public health of the U.S.P.H.S. He is a graduate of the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry and holds master's and doctor's degrees in public health from Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Knutson joined the Public Health Service in 1931 and has been a member of the commissioned corps since 1934. He is well known for his extensive research in dental caries and from 1940 to 1944 conducted demonstration studies and laboratory research in cooperation with the Minnesota State Department of Health. In 1944 Dr. Knutson was named chief of the dental section of the state relations division, a post he held until 1949 when he became chief of the division of dental public health. He is a member of the American Dental Association and numerous other professional groups.

A.M.A. GOES ON RECORD FOR OVER-ALL LIMITATION ON FEDERAL TAXES AS DELEGATES AUTHORIZE COMMENT ON ALL BASIC GOVERNMENTAL ISSUES

The House of Delegates of the American Medical Association, meeting in Chicago last week, approved a report authorizing the Association to take action on governmental matters other than those dealing with medicine and health. "The time has arrived," the report said, "when the American Medical Association should approve broad basic governmental principles outside the actual field of medicine as pertaining to the general welfare of the American people." The report accompanied a resolution, which was adopted, favoring amendment of the U. S. Constitution to limit the taxing power of the federal government. Earlier, delegates heard a report from Dr. Louis H. Bauer, of Hempstead, N. Y., new A.M.A. president, that voluntary health insurance "has become the fastest growing insurance project in history and is providing a sound means for prepayment of the major costs of illness." Dr. Bauer pointed out that "protection must be developed for those over age 65 and for those suffering from financially catastrophic illness." While tabling a resolution specifically repudiating the Commission on the Health Needs of the Nation appointed several months ago by President Truman, members of the House of Delegates clearly indicated that they believed the commission to be "politically motivated." Sharp exchanges between A.M.A. officers and Dr. Paul Magnuson, commission chairman, highlighted the debate on the issue. In another action, the House voted to conclude the A.M.A.'s education campaign against compulsory health insurance at the end of the year "barring a reversal in the general elections in November, and a strong recurrence of the threat of socialization." A bill in Congress to increase old age benefits under the Social Security Act was strongly condemned by the delegates as "a flagrant attempt to railroad through a provision to aid in the socialization of medicine." The section of the bill under criticism concerns tax

suspension for totally disabled persons and stipulates that an individual shall not be considered disabled until he provides such proof "as may be required." The A.M.A. contends that this provision extends unduly the power and authority of the federal security administrator to set up regulations to determine disability.

MIAMI BEGINS FLUORIDATION OF WATER SUPPLY SERVING 350,000 PERSONS

More than 350,000 persons are now receiving fluoridated water in the Miami area, Dr. Floyd H. DeCamp, dental director of the Florida State Board of Health, announced recently. The city of Miami, which has a population of 249,276, provides water for seven nearby communities: Miami Beach, Coral Gables, Hialeah, South Miami, West Miami, Miami Shores Village and Miami Springs. In Iowa, the state health department has announced plans to fluoridate the water supplies of 12 towns in a controlled study which will last ten to 12 years. The equipment will be purchased by the health department with funds supplied by the Children's Bureau of the Federal Security Agency. Total cost is expected to be \$36,450. The individual communities will bear the maintenance costs. The twelve installations will serve approximately 82,000 persons. Dr. W.L. Wishart, of Ames, is chairman of the state committee in charge of the project.

CONGRESS APPROVES \$100-A-MONTH EXTRA PAY FOR DENTAL OFFICERS

The Houses of Representatives today (June 16) approved a bill to continue the \$100-a-month bonus pay for dentists and physicians who voluntarily accept commissions in the armed forces. Earlier, the measure was approved by the Senate. It now goes to President Truman. The bill extends from Sept. 1, 1952, to July 1, 1953, the time in which dentists and physicians can volunteer for active duty and qualify for the additional \$100 pay each month. The extra pay does not apply to dentists or physicians who are drafted. In a Defense Department directive last week, Selective Service was ordered to draft 450 Priority I physicians in August unless a sufficient number volunteer. Meanwhile, local Selective Service advisory boards were urged by the National Advisory Committee to Selective Service to review carefully the status of dental school faculty members. Pointing out that "there is twice as high a percentage of dental faculty members in Priority I and II as there are medical faculty members," the committee said it was the intent of the Department of Defense and the Health Resources Advisory Committee to continue dental education at its present level insofar as possible. "It is imperative, therefore," the committee added, "that the state chairman, his committee and any subcommittees in dentistry or dental education make careful determinations of the relative essentiality or availability of every full-time and part-time faculty member in Priority I or II, either reservist or registrant, before determining whether or not further delay or deferment should be allowed in order to maintain the national health, safety and interest as it pertains to continuing production of adequately trained graduates of dentistry." The committee emphasized, however, there must be no evasion of obligations for Priority I and II men. "With very few exceptions, these individuals will enter service sometime during the next 12 months," the committee said. "Therefore, it should be pointed out to deans and others concerned that delay or deferment is and always has been temporary and for definite periods of time since there can be no permanent or blanket deferment."

2,000 DENTISTS PARTICIPATING IN BOND-A-MONTH PLAN, TREASURY REPORTS

Nearly 2,000 dentists are now participating in the Bond-a-Month plan, the Treasury Department revealed last week in a final report on the campaign conducted among professional groups in December, January and February, 1951-52. In reply to letters sent to A.D.A. members, 1,961 dentists stated they were participating in the monthly savings plan and an additional 238 said they planned to start in the near future, the report showed. The campaign was sponsored by the National Professional Associations Advisory Committee for Defense Bonds. Dr. Harold W. Oppice, immediate past president of the A.D.A., was national bond chairman for the Association.

ANNOUNCE DATES FOR 5TH ANNUAL NEW ORLEANS DENTAL CONFERENCE

Nearly one thousand dentists, including several from Latin America, are expected to attend the 5th annual New Orleans Dental Conference Nov. 9-12. Six clinicians will present papers at the meeting which will be held in the Roosevelt Hotel. They are: Dr. Vincent Trapozzano, of New Port Richey, Fla.; Dr. Ralph L. Ireland, of Lincoln, Neb.; Dr. Arthur J. Kershaw, Jr., of West Warwick, R.I.; Dr. Arvin W. Mann, of Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; Dr. LaMar W. Harris, of Chicago, and Dr. Leslie Fitzgerald, of Dubuque, Ia. Limited attendance clinics, a motion picture program and scientific and commercial exhibits will also be presented during the four-day conference. A descriptive brochure and further information may be obtained by writing Dr. J. Melville Smith, chairman, 629 Maison Blanche Bldg., New Orleans 16, La.

CONSTRUCTION STARTED ON ILLINOIS AND TEXAS DENTAL SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Construction was underway last week on new buildings which will permit expanded enrollment at two dental schools. Ground-breaking ceremonies for a \$6,400,000 building for the University of Texas Dental Branch were held at Houston. The new structure will house the School of Dentistry, Postgraduate School of Dentistry, College of Dental Hygiene and the Research Institute. The dental school is now housed with the University of Texas Medical School. The new dental building will have 200,000 square feet of floor space. In Chicago, construction was begun on a \$5,540,00 classroom and laboratory building at the University of Illinois Professional Colleges. The school's College of Dentistry is expected to increase its enrollment by 12 per cent when the six-story structure is completed. The dental school will share the building's facilities with the colleges of medicine and pharmacy.

DR. EDWARD MIMMACK NAMED TO COUNCIL ON DENTAL THERAPEUTICS

Dr. Edward Mimmack, of Buffalo, has been named to the A.D.A. Council on Dental Therapeutics to fill the vacancy left by the death of Dr. Theodore Kaletsky. The appointment, an ad interim one, was made by Dr. LeRoy M. Ennis, of Philadelphia, A.D.A. president, and extends to the 1952 annual session. Dr. Mimmack is professor of materia medica and therapeutics at the School of Dentistry, University of Buffalo.

\$35,914 GRANTED FOR DENTAL STUDIES BY NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

The U.S. Public Health Service this week announced three new research grants totaling \$35,914 in programs of the National Institutes of Health relating to dentistry. The largest grant, \$17,355, was made through the Division of Research Grants to the University of Cincinnati for a study on the ingestion of fluoride derived from drinking water and its elimination by man. The other two grants were made through the National Institute of Research and included \$8,650 to Tufts College Dental School, Boston, for a study of the effect of ACTH and cortisone on pulp reactions and dentin deposition in fully erupted teeth, and \$9,909 to the School of Dentistry, Western Reserve University, Cleveland, for a study of intermediary carbohydrate metabolism of organisms associated with dental caries.

SEN. MURRAY COMMENDS A.D.A. FOR ATTITUDE TOWARD LEGISLATION

In a recent letter to Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, A.D.A. secretary, Sen. James E. Murray (D., Mont.), chairman of the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare of the U.S. Senate, commended the A.D.A. for its willingness to discuss controversial questions. Sen. Murray's letter said in part: "...I want you to know that it gives me great pleasure to try to assist American dentistry in any way possible. Yours is one professional organization which over the years has shown itself ready to discuss controversial questions much more in terms of their merits than in terms of the super-charged emotionalism which characterizes the reactions of some other professional organizations."

U.S. DENTISTS INVITED TO ITALIAN, SOUTH AFRICAN DENTAL MEETINGS

A special exposition depicting the advancement of dental prosthetics through the centuries will be presented at the 1st International Triennial of Prosthetic Dentistry in Rome during the latter part of October. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the 27th Congress of the Italian Dental Association. U.S. dentists are invited to attend. Further information about the Congress may be obtained from the secretary-general, Dr. Andrea K. Ovadia, Viale Regina Margherita N. 287 b, Rome, Italy. The Dental Association of South Africa has also extended a special invitation to A.D.A. members to attend the 2nd Scientific Congress May 1-12, 1953, in Johannesburg. Anyone interested in attending this meeting is asked to write Dr. A. Deverall, Congress chairman, Post Office Box 5247, Johannesburg, Union of South Africa.

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP REACHES 73,792, GAIN OF 1,900 OVER LAST YEAR

Total membership in the A.D.A. reached 73,792 on May 31, a gain of 1,907 over May 31 of last year. A total of 38 constituent societies reported membership gains over 1951. Fully-privileged members numbered 64,183, an increase of 1,525. Membership in other categories was: student, 9,390 (up 992); affiliate, 204 (up 1); associate, 7 (up 5), and honorary, 8 (up 3).

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SOCIETY INAUGURATES POSTPAYMENT PLAN

More than 300 members of the District of Columbia Dental Society are now participating in the society's postpayment plan which was inaugurated June 1, it was announced last week. The society has a total of 512 members. The plan was developed in conjunction with the National Bank of Washington.

DR. PAUL JESERICH NAMED TO NEW PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE COMMITTEE

Dr. Paul H. Jeserich, of Ann Arbor, dean of the School of Dentistry, University of Michigan, and member of the A.D.A. Council on International Relations, has been appointed to the newly-organized Advisory Committee on Foreign Students and Visitors of the U.S. Public Health Service. The committee was established to assist the Public Health Service on educational programs for foreign students seeking training in the United States.

BRIEFS IN THE NEWS

The June 28 issue of Collier's Magazine, available at newstands Thursday (June 19), contains an article entitled, "What You Should Know About Your Teeth." The author is Carle Hodge, New York science writer....An annual \$ 3,600 fellowship in dental and oral pathology at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Washington, D.C., will be awarded this fall by the A.D.A. Council on Dental Museum and Registry. Information may be obtained from Dr. Henry A. Swanson, 1726 Eye St., N.W., Washington, Council chairm....Dr. Hugo M. Kulstad, of San Francisco, has submitted his resignation, effective June 30, as chief of the California Division of Dental Health to return to the private practice of pedodontics. Dr. Kulstad is a former chairman of the A.D.A. Council on Dental Health....The Tri-County Dental Society, covering New Jersey's Morris, Warren and Sussex counties, is sponsoring a new publication, The Bulletin of the Tri-County Dental Society. Dr. Sidney Brandt, of Morristown, is editor. Plans call for seven issues a year....The index of Vol. 44 of The A.D.A. Journal, covering the issues for the first six months of 1952, can be obtained without charge from the Association's Order Department....In Canada, a bill for establishment of a National Dental Examining Board is now pending in the House of Commons after passing its third reading in the Senate....The 87 Blue Cross plans in the United States and Canada reached an enrollment of 41,435,379 in 1951. For the 78 Blue Shield plans in operation in the two countries, enrollment was 21,125,812.