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The Relief Fund Needs Your Help NOW!



Vol. 6, No. 23 - Nov. 15, 1953

FALSE CLAIMS FOR DENTIFRICES DECRIED AT A.D.A. RESEARCH CONFERENCE -- NEED FOR GREATER ACCURACY IN STUDIES OF ANTI-DECAY AGENTS STRESSED

The need for greater accuracy in measuring the effectiveness of potentially therapeutic dentifrices was stressed at a two-day conference of 25 dental scientists, all experienced in caries research, at the A.D.A. Central Office, Nov. 2 and 3. The conference was sponsored by the A.D.A. Councils on Dental Research, Dental Therapeutics and Dental Health, in an effort to establish minimum standards and procedures for clinical research in dentistry. "In recent years there has been a notable increase in the number of studies reporting tests of agents developed for the control of dental caries," Dr. Maynard K. Hine, of Indianapolis, who served as chairman of the conference, said. "Unfortunately, many of these studies are poorly designed and reported in a manner that makes comparisons or evaluation difficult or meaningless." The scientists were critical of incomplete or preliminary research reports exploited by dentifrice manufacturers as the basis for sensational advertising claims. In summarizing the conference findings, Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, of Chicago, A.D.A. secretary, pointed out that the A.D.A. as yet knows of no satisfactory evidence that any dentifrice on the market will actually prevent dental caries. "It is unfortunate that a few dental research scientists have permitted inconclusive or incomplete research reports to be used by commercial interests to mislead the general public into believing that a certain product contains substances that will prevent dental decay," he said. A report of the conference is to be made available to the profession. These were some of the main points of agreement by conference participants on studies involving control of dental caries:

1. Experiments should include the examination of all the teeth of individuals participating in the experiment rather than only certain individual teeth or selected surfaces of the teeth, in order to obtain a complete picture of caries experience.
2. Whether or not X-rays are used, thorough clinical examinations of the complete dentition with mouth mirror and explorer are essential to a study.
3. The examinations should be made with sufficient accuracy to be dependable and reproducible. Small-scale examinations should be conducted by one examiner while for larger groups, multiple examiners should be trained to make comparable examinations consistently.
4. It is essential that qualified statisticians with experience in dental research be employed in the design of the study as well as in the interpretation of the results.
5. Laboratory tests should not be used as the sole criteria for measuring the effect of agents in limiting tooth decay.

6. In measuring results of a study with experimental and control groups, it should be emphasized that a statistically significant difference between the two may not mean an important practical difference.

POSTERS, KITS FOR 1954 CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH DAY NOW BEING DISTRIBUTED

Posters and portfolios of publicity and promotional material for the sixth annual observance of National Children's Dental Health Day were being mailed this week to state and district and local societies. The 1954 observance is Feb. 1. The materials are being shipped directly to individuals designated by state and component society secretaries. The posters measure 11-1/2 by 17 inches and carry a message urging children to brush their teeth immediately after eating. Additional posters and packets may be obtained by constituent and component society officers on request from the A.D.A. Bureau of Public Information, 222 E. Superior St., Chicago 11.

FLUORIDATION DEFEATED 76,612 TO 55,904 IN REFERENDUM IN CINCINNATI

Fluoridation of public water supplies was defeated in a referendum in Cincinnati Nov. 3. The vote was 55,904 for the measure and 76,612 against. Defeat of the measure was attributed in large part to charges of a local news commentator who spearheaded the campaign of opposition. Opponents used such ridiculous charges as that fluoridation, among other things, was "part of a communist plot to poison the American people." Immediately following the referendum, the Cincinnati Enquirer and Cincinnati Post declared editorially that they would continue their campaign in favor of the measure. The Crusade for Dental Health, an organization of dentists, physicians and civic leaders who led the drive for the program, scheduled a meeting for Nov. 16 to decide on their next course. In Columbus, Ohio, for the annual meeting of the Ohio State Dental Association, Dr. Leslie M. FitzGerald, A.D.A. president, referring to the Cincinnati action on fluoridation, said: "When a scientific health measure becomes a political issue, heat takes precedence over light and the only losers are the small children of the community and the future generations who are thus deprived of the dental health benefits of this proven procedure."

THREE OTHER COMMUNITIES ALSO REJECT FLUORIDATION

Fluoridation was also defeated in referenda in Lansing, Mich., and Cambridge and Northampton, Mass., on Nov. 3. Opposition cam-

paigns very similar to that employed in Cincinnati were used to defeat the health measure in all three of these cities.

GIANT COLOR TELECASTS TO BE PRESENTED AT GREATER NEW YORK MEETING

Giant color telecasts of dental operations will be a feature of the 29th annual session of the Greater New York Dental Meeting to be held Dec. 7-11 at the Hotel Statler in New York City. The meeting, sponsored by the 1st and 2nd District Dental Societies of the State of New York, will also include 24 table clinics to be projected on color slides on two screens, a symposium on the effects of cigaret smoking, 42 registered clinics and a number of essayists. Dr. Leslie M. FitzGerald, of Dubuque, Ia., A.D.A. president, will address the opening general session Monday evening, Dec. 7. The general chairman for the meeting is Dr. Arthur E. Corby.

DR. BRANDHORST NAMED TO TASK FORCE OF HOOVER COMMISSION

Dr. Otto W. Brandhorst, of St. Louis, immediate past president of the A.D.A., has been appointed to a new task force on medical services under the Hoover Commission on Government Reorganization. Dr. Brandhorst was one of 15 appointments to the task force announced last week by former President Herbert Hoover as chairman of the commission. The task force is assigned to study health activities in seven federal agencies and to make recommendations to improve efficiency and reduce costs. The group is headed by a layman, Mr. Chauncey McCormick, of Chicago, director of International Harvester Co., and includes 13 physicians. Mr. Hoover said two additional appointments would be made to the task force. The first task force worked with the commission from 1947 to 1950 and did not include a dentist member.

\$23,720.11 RECEIVED IN FIRST TWO WEEKS OF RELIEF FUND DRIVE; DENTISTS IN ALABAMA AND IOWA TAKE LEAD IN EARLY CONTRIBUTIONS

Nearly one-fourth of the \$100,000 goal for the 1953-54 A.D.A. Relief Fund drive was contributed during the first two weeks of the new campaign. Contributions received to Nov. 1 totalled \$23,720.11. By percentage, the two divisions established for this year had almost equal records. The larger state societies, those with quotas of more than \$900, contributed \$20,557.60 or 23.6 per cent of their total quota. The smaller state societies, those with quotas of \$900 or less, contributed \$3,011.26, or 23.5 per cent of their total quota. Alabama took an early lead in the first returns with contributions of 42 per cent of its quota. Mississippi was second among the smaller societies with contributions equalling 37.3 per cent of its quota while West Virginia was third with 33.6 per cent. Iowa held the lead among the larger societies with 40 per cent of its quota already received. Michigan was second with 34.5 per cent, and Indiana was a close third with 34.3 per cent. Missouri was fourth with 33.7 per cent and Illinois was fifth with 33.5 per cent. Contributions from the constituent societies to Nov. 1 are as follows:

QUOTA OF \$900.00 or UNDER

	1953-54	To Nov. 1	
	QUOTA	CONTRI- BUTIONS	PCT.
Air Force	\$ 600.00	\$ 40.00	6.7
Alabama	750.00	315.11	42.0
Alaska	50.00		
Arizona	280.00	11.00	3.9
Arkansas	560.00	115.00	20.5
Army	630.00	36.00	5.7
Delaware	160.00	34.00	21.3
District of Columbia	850.00	775.00	91.2
Hawaii	360.00		
Idaho	260.00	42.00	16.2
Maine	450.00	83.00	18.4
Mississippi	520.00	194.00	37.3
Montana	370.00	97.00	26.2
Navy	830.00	77.50	9.3
Nevada	90.00	24.50	27.2
New Hampshire	290.00	76.00	26.2
New Mexico	250.00	63.00	25.2
North Dakota	340.00	100.00	29.4
Oklahoma	890.00	174.00	19.6
Panama Canal Zone	20.00		
Public Health Service	260.00	13.00	5.0
Puerto Rico	190.00		
Rhode Island	580.00	39.00	6.7
South Carolina	410.00	121.00	29.5
South Dakota	340.00	61.00	17.9
Utah	450.00	95.00	21.1
Vermont	190.00	27.00	14.2
Vet. Admin.	900.00	111.15	12.4
West Virginia	740.00	249.00	33.6
Wyoming	180.00	38.00	21.1
TOTALS	\$ 12,790.00	\$ 3,011.26	23.5

QUOTA OVER \$900.00

	1953-54	To Nov. 1	
	QUOTA	CONTRI- BUTIONS	PCT.
California	\$ 3,740.00	\$ 795.50	21.3
So. California	4,530.00	846.50	18.7
Colorado	920.00	33.00	3.6
Connecticut	1,930.00	382.62	19.8
Florida	1,270.00	288.00	22.7
Georgia	1,040.00	291.50	28.0
Illinois	7,370.00	2,472.50	33.5
Indiana	2,350.00	805.50	34.3
Iowa	1,860.00	744.00	40.0
Kansas	990.00	272.15	27.5
Kentucky	1,120.00	137.00	12.2
Louisiana	1,010.00	220.00	21.8
Maryland	1,060.00	270.00	25.5
Massachusetts	3,780.00	1,138.33	30.1
Michigan	4,010.00	1,385.00	34.5
Minnesota	2,940.00	839.50	28.6
Missouri	2,530.00	852.50	33.7
Nebraska	1,060.00	23.00	2.2
New Jersey	4,070.00	891.50	21.9
New York	15,210.00	2,623.50	17.2
North Carolina	1,230.00	164.00	13.3
Ohio	4,980.00	1,334.50	26.8
Oregon	1,200.00	172.00	14.3
Pennsylvania	6,830.00	1,388.50	20.3
Tennessee	1,200.00	198.00	16.5
Texas	3,160.00	594.50	18.8
Virginia	1,130.00	252.00	22.3
Washington	1,780.00	442.00	24.8
Wisconsin	2,910.00	700.50	24.1
TOTALS	\$ 87,210.00	\$ 20,557.60	23.6

	QUOTA	CONTRIBUTIONS	PCT.
QUOTAS OF \$900 or UNDER	\$ 12,790.00	\$ 3,011.26	23.5
QUOTAS OVER \$900	87,210.00	20,557.60	23.6
STUDENTS		147.00	
MISCELLANEOUS		4.25	
GRAND TOTAL	\$100,000.00	\$ 23,720.11	23.7

DR. HOMER C. BROWN, A.D.A. PRESIDENT IN 1913-1914, IS DEAD

Dr. Homer C. Brown, who was the oldest living past president of the American Dental Association, died Nov. 7 at his home in Columbus, O. He was 84 years old. Dr. Brown headed the Association in 1913-14. Dr. Brown was honored as "the grand old man of dentistry" at the A.D.A. annual session in Washington, D.C., in 1951. Other past presidents saluted Dr. Brown at a testimonial luncheon, arranged by Dr. Clyde E. Minges, of Rocky Mount, N.C., himself a past president. It was Dr. Brown who, as chairman of the A.D.A. Legislative Committee, forerunner to the Council on Legislation, was credited with defeat of tariff legislation that would have substantially raised duties on dental instruments. Dr. Brown was also credited in large part with military service regulations for commissioning of dental officers, climaxed by the law providing for promotion of dental corps officers similar to that of medical officers. The dental leader served as chairman of the Legislative Committee for 21 years following his presidency. He was also a member of the A.D.A. committee which developed the Association's research program at the National Bureau of Standards and he served as chairman of the A.D.A. committee which preceded the Council on Dental Therapeutics. Dr. Brown received a number of awards. He was an honorary member of the Military Dental Surgeons Association and a recipient of the Callahan award of the Ohio State Dental Association and the Harvey J. Burkhart award of the Dental Society of the State of New York. Dr. Brown headed the Ohio society in 1907. Six years later, he was appointed to the Ohio State Board of Health, the first dentist in the country to be named to such a position. Dr. Brown began the practice of dentistry in 1890 in Ohio after his graduation that year from the Ohio College of Dental Surgery in Cincinnati.

DRS. KURZ, FITZGIBBON ARE AWARDED AD INTERIM APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Charles S. Kurz, of Carlyle, Ill., has been appointed by Dr. Leslie M. FitzGerald, A.D.A. president, as chairman of the Council on Scientific Session. Dr. Kurz, who has been a member of the Council for the past two years, replaces Dr. Charles Patton, of Philadelphia, who resigned as chairman following his appointment by Dr. FitzGerald as A.D.A. trustee for Pennsylvania succeeding the late Dr. Earle Craig of Pittsburgh. Dr. FitzGerald also announced the ad interim appointment of Dr. David Fitzgibbon, of Washington, D.C., to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Dr. Patton. Both appointments are effective until the 1954 annual session at Miami, Fla.

CANADIAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION URGES NEW SCHOOLS TO MEET DENTIST SHORTAGE

Canada has "a definite shortage" of dentists and expansion of dental schools together with the establishment of new schools are essential if the demand of the public for dental services is to be met, the Canadian Dental Association said in a resolution adopted at its recent annual session in Montreal. The C.D.A. also called for an intensified program of prevention with emphasis on "the younger age groups of the population." The resolution pointed out that Canada has some 5,000 dentists for more than 14 million people. The C.D.A. also approved a resolution urging that public water supplies be fluoridated in communities throughout Canada. At the meeting, Dr. A. J. Coughlan, of St. John, New Brunswick, was installed as president and Dr. P. G. Anderson, of Toronto, was named president-elect.

156 ARMY DENTAL OFFICERS TO BE PROMOTED UNDER REVISED DRAFT LAW

An estimated 156 dental officers in the Army will be promoted "at the earliest practicable date" in keeping with the recently-issued Defense Department directive to implement the revised dentist-physician draft law, according to the Army, Navy, Air Force Journal. The directive called for military grades to be based on all professional experience. The publication said 10 dental officers will be promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel; 20 to the rank of major, and 126 to the grade of captain. Eventually, an estimated 1,000 dental and medical officers in the Navy and Air Force are expected to be affected by the new ruling. Meanwhile, the National Advisory Committee to the Selective Service System, in a bulletin to state committees this week, said deferments from military service for hospital residents should in the future be based on the needs of the individual hospitals.