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Recommended Citation

American Dental Association, "ADA News Letter - 05/15/1954" (1954). *ADA News Letter*. 157.
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News Letter

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Vol. 7, No. 11 - May 15, 1954

SPECIAL BULLETIN ON CONGRESSIONAL ANTI-FLUORIDATION BILL SENT TO A.D.A. MEMBERS; EXPERT TESTIMONY TO BE PRESENTED AT HEARINGS

An Information Bulletin dealing with the Wier bill (H.R. 2341), which seeks to have Congress prohibit fluoridation throughout the United States, was being mailed this weekend to all members of the A.D.A. Hearings on the bill have been scheduled for May 25, 26 and 27 before the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce of the House of Representatives. The committee is headed by Rep. Wolverton (R., N.J.). The Information Bulletin urges that each dentist convey his views on the bill to his Congressman and to Rep. Wolverton as soon as possible. Chairman Wolverton has announced that the hearing time for the bill will be divided equally between opponents and proponents of the measure.

NATION'S TOP SCIENTISTS WILL PRESENT STATEMENTS

Representatives of the Association as well as representatives of the leading health and scientific agencies in the country are scheduled to testify on the effectiveness and safety of the fluoridation procedure. Opponents of the procedure are expected to use the hearings as a sounding board to substitute for scientific opinion the same emotional and unscientific charges that have been used in local campaigns against fluoridation. In addition to formal testimony before the Congressional committee, many of the nation's outstanding scientific authorities are expected to present statements to the committee on the value of fluoridation of public water supplies.

EVANSTON STUDY SHOWS FURTHER DROP IN CARIES

Meanwhile, a new report issued last week on the 15-year fluoridation study in Evanston, Ill., showed a further reduction in the incidence of dental decay. The study, at the half-way point, showed a decrease of 56 per cent in caries among children in the six-to-eight age group as compared with a similar age group in 1946. The study is under the direction of Dr. J. Roy Blayney, director of the Zoller Memorial Clinic at the University of Chicago.

ALL DENTAL SOCIETIES NOW ENDORSE PROGRAM

At its recent annual meeting, the Alabama Dental Association went on record in favor of the fluoridation procedure for the state. All state dental societies in the United States have now endorsed the program. This week, fluoridation of public water supplies was in operation in 945 communities throughout the country. In Canada, a comprehensive new pamphlet on fluoridation, entitled "Facts," has been issued by the Canadian Dental Association. It points out that in addition to U.S. agencies and organizations, the program has been endorsed by the Canadian Dental Association, the Canadian Medical Association and the Canadian Public Health Association.

TOTAL A.D.A. MEMBERSHIP REACHES NEW RECORD OF 77,646

Total A.D.A. membership reached 77,646 on April 30, the highest figure ever attained for that date. Included were 67,879 fully privileged members, a gain of 2,175 over the corresponding figure for last year. Membership in other categories was: affiliate, 156; associate, 11; honorary, 10, and student, 9,590 (up 602). The greatest gains in active membership, percentage-wise, were registered by Puerto Rico (33 per cent), the Navy (27 per cent), South Carolina (26 per cent) and Nevada (22 per cent).

EXTENSIVE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM ARRANGED FOR A.D.A. MEETING IN MIAMI

Final details for the scientific program at the 95th annual session of the Association to be held in Miami, Nov. 8 through 11, will be completed by the A.D.A. Council on Scientific Session at a meeting Monday (May 17) in the Central Office. Dr. Charles S. Kurz, of Carlyle, Ill., is chairman of the council. The general committee on local arrangements, headed by Dr. Curtis A. Haggard, of Miami, has been at work several months preparing for the meeting. In cooperation with the committee, special low rates at 77 outstanding hotels in Miami and Miami Beach are being offered for the four-day session. An application blank for hotel accommodations appears in The Journal of the American Dental Association. With Dr. Haggard as general chairman, the honorary officers of the general committee on local arrangements are Dr. Robert Thoburn, of Daytona Beach, and Dr. Thomas A. Price, Dr. Albert E. Rosenthal, Dr. Leonard S. Turner and Dr. James L. Armstrong, all of Miami. The vice-chairmen are Dr. Ernest B. Penn, Dr. H. Rogers Turner and Dr. Horace L. Cartee, all of Miami, and Dr. James E. Edwards, of Coral Gables. Chairmen of individual committees are Dr. S. Hill Gordon, of Coral Gables, reception; Dr. George J. Coleman, of Miami, information services; Dr. Horace W. Stubbs, of Coconut Grove, clinics and motion pictures; Dr. Raymond J. Smith, of Miami, publicity; Dr. Charles L. Craig, of Miami, entertainment, and Mrs. Curtis A. Haggard, women's entertainment.

FIVE U.S. DENTISTS NAMED DELEGATES TO F.D.I. MEETING, JUNE 8-13

Five A.D.A. members have been named to serve as delegates to the 42nd annual meeting of the Federation Dentaire Internationale, to be held June 8 through 13 in Scheveningen, the Netherlands. The delegation will be headed by Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, of Chicago, A.D.A. secretary, and will include Dr. LeRoy M. Ennis, of Philadelphia, A.D.A. past president; Dr. Willard Camalier, of Washington, D.C., A.D.A. assistant secretary; Dr. John Knutson, of Washington, D.C., dental chief of the U.S. Public Health Service, and Dr. Arno M. Bommer, of Revere, Mass., vice-president of the Massachusetts Dental Society. Among alternate delegates will be Dr. L. Herbert Loeb, of Boston. Dr. Oren A. Oliver, of Nashville, Tenn., chairman of the A.D.A. Council on International Relations, is F.D.I. president.

NO REASON SEEN NOW FOR EXTENSION OF DENTIST-PHYSICIAN DRAFT LAW

Barring a change in the international situation, the Defense Department will not ask Congress to extend the dentist-physician draft law beyond its expiration date of June 30, 1955, Maj. Gen. George E. Armstrong, Army surgeon general, has told Congress. The A.D.A. Council on Federal Dental Services has said that unless the military picture alters considerably, there will be little reason for extension of the law in 1955. By that time, it is expected that new graduates should assure an adequate supply of professional health manpower.

A.D.A. EXPECTED TO TESTIFY IN JUNE ON CARE OF MILITARY DEPENDENTS

Representatives of the Association are expected to testify early in June before the Senate Armed Services Committee on a new Defense Department bill for dental and medical care of military dependents. The bill generally limits dental care to emergency treatment. The measure has not yet been presented in the House. Hearings on appropriations for dental activities of the U.S. Public Health Service are now underway before the House Appropriations Committee and A.D.A. spokesmen are scheduled for testimony later in the month. A request by the A.D.A. Council on Legislation for a new hearing on an Army Dental bill, which seeks a reorganization of the Army Dental Corps, has been turned down by the House Armed Services Committee because of Army opposition to the measure.

DR. PAFFENBARGER ELECTED TO WASHINGTON ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Dr. George C. Paffenbarger, of Washington, D.C., chief of the A.D.A. research staff at the National Bureau of Standards, has been elected to membership in the Washington Academy of Sciences. Dr. Paffenbarger is one of six dental scientists in the academy which is made up of outstanding individuals in the biological and physical sciences. In a letter to Dr. Paffenbarger, the academy said he was being cited "in recognition of...contributions to physical and chemical properties of dental materials."

ONLY 2,417 APPLICATIONS NEEDED FOR A.D.A. HEALTH AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE PROGRAM TO QUALIFY ALL ASSOCIATION MEMBERS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES

Only 2,417 more applications are needed to reach the quota of 50 per cent enrollment of the entire membership in the A.D.A. Health and Accident Insurance program, it was announced today by Dr. Paul W. Zillman, of Buffalo, N.Y., A.D.A. insurance trustee. The marked increase in applications being received from dentists throughout the nation during the past few days gave strong indications that the quota would be reached. As soon as the additional 2,400 applications are received, all A.D.A. members including those with unfavorable medical histories, that is, those who are impaired risks, will be eligible to purchase insurance protection up to \$200 a month provided they file application during the current enrollment period ending May 31. Other A.D.A. members are eligible for protection of \$400 a month. During the past two weeks, two additional state societies--Kentucky and Maryland--passed the 50 per cent mark to bring to a total of 14 state societies which have qualified for the insurance program in the current enrollment period. Those already qualified include: Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Virginia, and Wyoming. A number of other states are within a few applications of the quota needed to cover the impaired risks. These states and the number of applications needed as of May 10 are as follows: Vermont, 6; Delaware, 8; South Dakota, 11; Puerto Rico, 14; New Hampshire, 17; Mississippi, 20; Maine, 24; Kansas, 27; North Carolina, 32; West Virginia, 35; Louisiana, 42; Connecticut, 46, and District of Columbia, 60.

RESEARCH COUNCIL TO ISSUE ANNUAL PUBLICATION ON DENTAL MATERIALS

A new annual publication listing specifications and certifications of dental materials will be issued for the first time later this year by the A.D.A. Council on Dental Research, it was announced at the recent council meeting. The new annual, first of its kind ever published, will report on the work of the National Bureau of Standards of the A.D.A. fellowship. Periodic reports on materials will also continue to appear in The Journal of the American Dental Association, according to Dr. Maynard K. Hine, of Indianapolis, council chairman.

NEW FILM ON HAZARDS IN DENTAL X-RAY USE

The council also previewed a new motion picture, "Hazards of Dental Radiography," which has been produced by the Bureau of Standards

in collaboration with the A.D.A. fellowship staff. The film, made following an investigation into injuries suffered by dentists in X-ray use through inadequate protective precautions, will be available from the A.D.A. film library about July 15.

COUNCIL ON DENTAL HEALTH TO HOLD INDUSTRIAL DENTISTRY CONFERENCE

A conference on industrial dentistry will highlight a two-day session of the A.D.A. Council on Dental Health to be held Monday and Tuesday (May 17-18) in the Central Office. Speakers will include Dr. Ira Dow Beebe, of Bridgeport, Conn., chairman of the council's committee on industrial dental programs; Dr. Charles P. Crowe, of East Orange, N.J., member of the committee; Dr. Harry H. Dougherty, of Wyomissing, Pa., dental director of the Cooperative Service of Wyomissing Industries, and Dr. Francis J. Walters, of Washington, D.C., senior dental surgeon of the U.S. Public Health Service. Presiding will be Dr. David W. Brock, of St. Louis, chairman of the council.

1954 QUARTERLY INDEX TO DENTAL LITERATURE NOW AVAILABLE

The first quarterly issue of the 1954 Index to Dental Literature is now available, Dr. Donald Washburn, of Chicago, director of the A.D.A. Bureau of Library and Indexing Service, announced last week. The cumulative Index contains 1,279 entries covering all the original articles, editorials, reprints, abstracts and obituaries published in the English language in dental journals since Dec. 31, 1953. Now in its 34th year of publication, the Index has listed all known dental articles published in English since 1839 when the first dental journal was founded. Cost of a single subscription for one year is \$30; additional subscriptions to the same subscriber are \$15. Requests for information should be sent to the Bureau of Library and Indexing Service, American Dental Association, 222 E. Superior St., Chicago 11, Ill.

DENTAL SOCIETIES COOPERATE IN HELP KOREA TRAIN CAMPAIGN

Local and district dental societies in many parts of the nation this week were making arrangements to contribute dental supplies and equipment for their colleagues in war-shattered Korea as part of the HELP KOREA TRAIN campaign. The drive is sponsored by the American-Korean Foundation, recently established "to help the Korean people to help themselves." Some 600 freight cars have been provided to transport contributions from all sections of the country to San Francisco for transshipment to Korea. In most major cities, special train chairmen have been appointed and, in all areas, collection centers have been designated for contributions pending the freight car loadings in that area. The drive to provide urgently-needed supplies and equipment for dentists in Korea is headed by Dr. Leslie M. FitzGerald, of Dubuque, Ia., A.D.A. president. Dr. FitzGerald pointed out that there is also a pressing need for items for the dental school at Seoul National University, the only source of supply for dentists in the Republic of Korea which now has less than 800 qualified dentists. "Half of the 400 students in the dental school are junior and senior students in their clinic years," Dr. FitzGerald said. "They do not have enough hand instruments and ordinary day-to-day supplies to allow them to do much practical clinical work prior to their graduation. They need everything and just about anything that could be contributed would be welcome and an important contribution to meeting the dental needs of a stricken country."

VIRGINIA DENTISTS COOPERATE IN PROGRAM TO SERVE RURAL AREAS, SMALL TOWNS

In a move to meet the need for dentists in rural areas and small towns in Virginia, the Virginia State Dental Association has approved a unique placement program in the state. The program is spearheaded by the Virginia Council on Health and Medical Care, which has sought the establishment of a program covering dentists similar to one in operation to place young physicians where they are most needed. Dr. William N. Hodgkin, of Warrenton, Va., former member of the A.D.A. Council on Dental Education, has been appointed chairman of an advisory committee of the state society to work with the council. Edgar J. Fisher Jr., council director, said one of the first steps would be to acquaint students at the School of Dentistry, Medical College of Virginia, with the service. Dr. Harry J. Lyons, dean of the school and speaker of the A.D.A. House of Delegates, urged cooperation in the program as of value to young dentists and to dentist-short communities. "Good dental health is an essential part of the over-all health program which the council, as a privately supported voluntary organization, is promoting," Mr. Fisher said. It was pointed out that in communities where the council had stimulated the construction of small clinic buildings to attract physicians, facilities could be added for dentists.

A.D.A. JOINS UNESCO PLAN TO MEET DEMANDS FOR USE OF MATERIAL ABROAD

Arrangements have been made for the A.D.A. to participate in a program to facilitate the purchase of U.S. educational and scientific materials by persons in other parts of the world. The program is the UNESCO coupon plan under which individuals abroad wishing to obtain films, publications or other material from the A.D.A. may now obtain UNESCO coupons which can be redeemed in dollars in the United States. Some 24 countries are included in the program.

BRIEFS IN THE NEWS

A new edition of the booklet, "Dental Aptitude Testing Program," has been issued by the A.D.A. Council on Dental Education. The publication contains information for prospective dental students seeking to enter dental school in the fall of 1955....The 12th annual post-graduate dental seminar sponsored jointly by the Tennessee State Dental Association and the Tennessee Department of Public Health is scheduled for June 14 through July 9 in eight cities of the state....The 1955 appointment book issued by the A.D.A. is now available from the Order Department and can be obtained for \$2....The Florida Citrus Commission of Lakeland, Fla., has made a grant to the School of Dentistry, University of Alabama, for a four-months study of the effect of orange juice, grapefruit juice and selected carbonated beverages on dental enamelWith the appointment of Dr. Eugene Dionne, past president of the Massachusetts Dental Society, to the state board of dental examiners, the three-man board now includes three major officers of the society. The other two are Dr. George J. Fink, president-elect, and Dr. Arno M. Bommer, vice-president.