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3-15-1955

## ADA Newsletter - 03/15/1955

American Dental Association

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### Recommended Citation

American Dental Association, "ADA Newsletter - 03/15/1955" (1955). *ADA News Letter*. 177.  
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The logo features the letters 'ada' in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font, enclosed within a circle. To the right of the circle, the words 'News Letter' are written in a large, elegant, cursive script. A horizontal dotted line runs across the page below the logo.

# ada News Letter

Vol. 8, No. 6 -- March 15, 1955

## 95,883 DENTISTS LISTED FOR UNITED STATES; ONE FOR EACH 1,669 PERSONS -- TREND TOWARD MORE UNIFORM DISTRIBUTION THROUGHOUT COUNTRY IS SEEN

The United States has 95,883 dentists -- one for every 1,669 persons -- it was reported this week by the A.D.A. Bureau of Economic Research and Statistics. The report was based on the 1955 edition of the American Dental Directory published by the Association. The newest tabulation of dental practitioners lists 87,748 civilian dentists and an additional 8,135 serving in the armed forces, the Public Health Service and the Veterans Administration. The latest count shows 2,157 more dentists than were listed in the 1954 Directory when it was estimated there was one dentist for every 1,677 persons and 4,245 more dentists than were included in the 1953 Directory when it was estimated there was one dentist for every 1,691 persons. In the newest tabulation, a slight but definite trend toward a more uniform distribution of dentists throughout the country was noted by Mr. B. Duane Moen, director of the Bureau of Economic Research and Statistics. In the 1955 listing, improved dentist-population ratios were found in 21 out of the 27 states which were shown in the 1954 tabulation to have one dentist for more than each 2,000 residents. Conversely, 12 states and the District of Columbia out of the remaining 21 states showed some decrease in number of dentists in proportion to the population. In these 21 states, the 1954 Directory indicated a ratio of less than 2,000 residents for every dentist. As an example of the trend, Mr. Moen pointed out that all 15 states in the southeast and southwest regions of the country, which for some years have led the country in the low number of dentists in the relation to population, in the newest count show a rise in the proportion. In the southeast, the ratio of one dentist to each 3,160 residents compares favorably with a year ago when one to 3,292 was reported.

### HIGHEST RATIOS CONTINUE ON EAST AND WEST COASTS

of the country. The most favorable ratio continues to be found in the geographical area that includes Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. In this area, there is one dentist for each 1,425 persons as compared with 1,413 persons in the 1954 listing. The New England states for the second year continue in second place with one dentist for each 1,505 persons. In the Far West, including California, Nevada, Oregon and Washington, there is a ratio of one dentist for each 1,508 persons. For other areas of the country, the population per dentist is: Central states, 1,693; Northwest states, 1,856, and Southwest states, 3,011. The District of Columbia again led the country with one dentist for each 1,082 residents. Among states, New York continued to take first place with a ratio of one dentist for each 1,148 persons; Minnesota was in second place with one dentist for each 1,361 persons and Connecticut, third, with one dentist for each 1,362 residents. The least favorable ratios were South Carolina, with one dentist for every 4,958 persons, and Mississippi with one dentist for each 4,111 persons. However, these ratios compare favorably with those of a year ago when one to 5,166 residents was reported for South Carolina and one to 4,328 for Mississippi.

Generally, the east coast and the west coast continue to be served by more dentists in proportion to the population than any other parts

### CANADIAN DENTAL SCHOOLS GRADUATE 172 STUDENTS IN 1954

Canadian dental schools graduated 172 students in 1954, the lowest number since 1948, according to the recently issued 1954-1955 Canadian Dental Students' Register.

## **PUERTO RICO AND SOUTH DAKOTA EXCEED QUOTAS IN RELIEF FUND DRIVE; TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS REACH \$103,023, ONLY \$3,000 SHORT OF RECORD**

Puerto Rico and South Dakota exceeded their quotas in the Relief Fund drive on March 11 as total contributions climbed to \$103,023. The new total was nearly \$2,000 ahead of last year's pace and only \$3,000 away from setting an all-time record. Thirty-seven constituent societies and the Public Health Service have now exceeded their quotas, and seven have passed the 90 per cent mark. The smaller societies (quotas of \$925 or less) had contributed 107.5 per cent of quota, 6.1 percentage points ahead of the larger societies (quotas over \$925) which had contributed 101.4 per cent of quota. A complete breakdown of contributions by constituent societies and federal services is listed on the accompanying Mimeographed page.

## **INTERSTATE COMMISSION TO SURVEY NEED FOR DENTISTS IN WESTERN STATES**

Plans for a survey of the need for dentists and dental hygienists in 13 western states and territories were discussed at a conference of the advisory committee for the study last Friday and Saturday (March 11 and 12) in Phoenix, Ariz. The two-day meeting was called by Dr. Harold L. Enarson, of Eugene, Ore., executive director of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education. Establishment of the commission to permit western states and territories to arrange cooperative financing of dental, medical, veterinarian, nursing and public health training was approved by Congress in August, 1953, in a bill sponsored by the late Sen. Hunt (D., Wyo.). Some 60 students are studying in schools in the areas under the program. Dentistry was selected as the first field for an intensive survey. At the Phoenix meeting, survey plans to determine the need for expanding dental facilities and the type of facilities most essential were considered. The survey is to be conducted by the U.S. Public Health Service with the counsel of the advisory committee. Areas included in the study will be Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, Alaska and Hawaii. Among consultants for the study are Dr. Philip E. Blackerby, of Battle Creek, Mich., chairman of the A.D.A. Council on Dental Education, and Dr. Shailer Peterson and Mr. Reginald H. Sullens, of Chicago, council secretary and assistant secretary, respectively.

## **CLOSED CIRCUIT TV FOR DENTAL SCHOOL, COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS**

Closed circuit television equipment for instruction of students has been presented to the School of Dentistry, College of Physicians and Surgeons, San Francisco. The equipment, presented to the school's trustees as a gift by the Alumni Association, includes a camera, control unit and three television sets, two for students and one for the instructor. Dr. John Tocchini, dean of the school, pointed out that entire classes would now be enabled to watch detailed surgery instead of the classes having to be divided into several groups of five or six students for demonstrations. Taking part in dedication ceremonies were Dean Tocchini, Dr. Marvin Andrews, of Santa Maria, Calif., Alumni Association president, and Dr. Frederick T. West, of San Francisco, chairman of the alumni committee that secured the equipment.

## **F.D.I. MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR COPENHAGEN AND ATHENS**

The 43rd annual meeting of the Federation Dentaire Internationale will be held this summer in Copenhagen, Denmark, Aug. 14 through 20. The Federation will also hold a special meeting Sept. 25-30 in Athens in conjunction with the Second Panhellenic Congress. At Copenhagen, the business and scientific program will be presented in the Danish Parliament Building, the Royal Dental College and the Copenhagen University Institute of Anatomy. One day will be devoted to a tour of North Sealand and visits to historical places such as Elsinore Castle. A special all-expense trip from Aug. 3 to Sept. 15 is being arranged for the meeting by the Carrick Travel Bureau of Oberlin, Ohio. Included is a three-week post-meeting tour of Sweden, Norway and England. The Athens meeting will be preceded and followed by nine-day cruises between Venice and Greece. Main topics on the scientific program at Athens will be social dentistry, pedodontics, periodontics and endodontics. U.S. dentists interested in attending either of these meetings are asked to write to Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, of Chicago, A.D.A. secretary.

Following is a list of contributions to the A.D.A. Relief Fund to March 11 by constituent societies and Federal Services:

<u>QUOTA OF \$925.00 or UNDER</u>				<u>QUOTA OVER \$925.00</u>			
		1954-55				1954-55	
	<u>QUOTA</u>	<u>CONTRI- BUTION</u>	<u>PCT.</u>		<u>QUOTA</u>	<u>CONTRI- BUTION</u>	<u>PCT.</u>
Air Force	\$600.00	\$ 406.25	67.7	CALIFORNIA	\$3,820.00	\$4,235.00	110.9
ALABAMA	800.00	1,558.50	194.8	SO. CALIF.	4,580.00	8,533.50	186.3
ALASKA	60.00	168.00	280.0	COLORADO	960.00	1,044.50	108.8
Arizona	300.00	104.00	34.7	Connecticut	1,940.00	1,921.50	99.0
ARKANSAS	560.00	647.50	115.6	FLORIDA	1,380.00	1,530.00	110.9
Army	580.00	542.50	93.5	GEORGIA	1,020.00	1,499.10	147.0
DELAWARE	150.00	165.00	110.0	ILLINOIS	7,240.00	7,533.81	104.1
DIST. OF C.	830.00	917.50	110.5	INDIANA	2,340.00	2,418.00	103.3
HAWAII	350.00	632.00	180.6	IOWA	1,780.00	2,080.00	116.9
IDAHO	260.00	316.50	121.7	Kansas	960.00	907.65	94.5
Maine	460.00	356.00	77.4	KENTUCKY	1,130.00	1,353.30	119.8
Mississippi	530.00	486.00	91.7	LOUISIANA	1,020.00	1,055.50	103.5
MONTANA	370.00	545.00	147.3	MARYLAND	1,060.00	1,168.00	110.2
Navy	920.00	539.50	58.6	Massachusetts	3,690.00	1,847.50	50.1
NEVADA	100.00	151.00	151.0	MICHIGAN	4,100.00	4,343.15	105.9
New Hamp.	300.00	267.00	89.0	MINNESOTA	2,840.00	2,950.05	103.9
NEW MEXICO	240.00	257.50	107.3	MISSOURI	2,450.00	2,515.50	102.7
NORTH DAKOTA	330.00	539.55	163.5	NEBRASKA	1,060.00	1,170.00	110.4
OKLAHOMA	920.00	981.00	106.6	NEW JERSEY	4,020.00	4,302.50	107.0
PANAMA C.Z.	10.00	15.00	150.0	New York	15,200.00	11,061.50	72.8
P.H. SERVICE	210.00	280.00	133.3	N. CAROLINA	1,240.00	1,339.00	108.0
PUERTO RICO	190.00	298.50	157.1	Ohio	4,920.00	4,723.75	96.0
RHODE ISLAND	560.00	768.50	137.2	OREGON	1,230.00	1,369.00	111.3
S. Carolina	450.00	334.50	74.3	Pennsylvania	6,810.00	5,341.25	78.4
S. DAKOTA	350.00	514.00	146.9	TENNESSEE	1,310.00	3,703.00	282.7
UTAH	470.00	618.50	131.6	Texas	3,190.00	2,666.50	83.6
Vermont	200.00	147.00	73.5	VIRGINIA	1,150.00	1,203.50	104.7
Vet. Admin.	810.00	342.00	42.2	WASHINGTON	1,800.00	2,333.00	129.6
W. Virginia	760.00	740.75	97.5	Wisconsin	2,930.00	2,212.50	75.5
Wyoming	160.00	148.50	92.8				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$12,830.00</b>	<b>\$13,787.55</b>	<b>107.5</b>		<b>\$87,170.00</b>	<b>\$88,361.56</b>	<b>101.4</b>

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	<u>QUOTA</u>	<u>CONTRIBUTION</u>	<u>PCT.</u>
QUOTAS OF \$925 OR UNDER	\$ 12,830.00	\$ 13,787.55	107.5
QUOTAS OVER \$925	87,170.00	88,361.56	101.4
STUDENTS		633.00	
MEMORIALS		240.00	
MISCELLANEOUS		1.00	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$100,000.00</b>	<b>\$103,023.11</b>	<b>103.0</b>

## NEW JERSEY CONDEMNS PROPOSAL FOR UNREGULATED FLUORIDATION

A plan to distribute concentrated solutions of fluoride to families in Freehold, N.J., for individual use in their drinking water has been strongly condemned by the state health department. Dr. Daniel Bergsma, state commissioner of health, in a letter to the city's mayor, pointed out that this method "has been rejected by qualified medical, dental and public health organizations as being ineffective in providing a proper dosage to minimize the occurrence of dental caries; and the possibility of unregulated intake in homes represents a potential hazard." The letter concluded: "This department, realizing the value of fluoridation, has drawn up regulations for a proper safe, and effective method of introducing sodium fluoride into a community water supply. Administered in the recommended fashion, fluoridation has been proven to reduce dental caries up to 65 per cent with absolute safety."

### WISCONSIN HIGH COURT UPHOLDS CITY'S RIGHT TO FLUORIDATE

Fluoridation is neither "compulsory mass medication" nor an "unreasonable invasion of the right of the individual," the Wisconsin

Supreme Court ruled last week in upholding the right of Milwaukee to fluoridate its water supply. Seven of the city's citizens had sued to halt the program after it was initiated in 1953. In all five states where fluoridation has been brought before the supreme courts, the measure has been upheld. Meanwhile, the U.S. Supreme Court for the third time rejected a suit against fluoridation and upheld the right of Tulsa to initiate the program.

### U.S. DENTAL SCHOOLS SPEND \$40 MILLION, NEED \$38 MILLION MORE

U.S. dental schools have spent nearly \$40 million on expansion and modernization of building and equipment in the past five years, but an additional \$38 million is still needed. This was one of the findings in a recent survey conducted at the request of the Public Health Service by the A.D.A. Council on Dental Education. The report covered 40 of the nation's 43 dental schools. Of the additional \$38 million still needed, the schools are able to provide only about 16 per cent, it was pointed out by Dr. Shailer Peterson, council secretary. Two thirds of the schools have insufficient classrooms, science laboratories and clinics, the survey reported. Three fourths have insufficient research laboratories, offices and conference space. Eighteen schools said they could increase the size of classes, but would need an additional \$29 million. The survey indicated, Dr. Peterson pointed out, that "tuition and fees have been increased as high as seems practical and reasonable and...the returns from the clinics and tuition income cannot possibly pay the cost of conducting an educational program, let alone provide an excess to pay for plants and equipment."

### CONTINUING RESTRICTIONS ON V.A. OUTPATIENT DENTAL PROGRAM URGED

The A.D.A. is strongly in favor of retaining restrictions on the outpatient dental program of the Veterans Administration, an Association representative testified last week. In testimony before an appropriations subcommittee of the House of Representatives, Dr. Rudolph H. Friedrich, of Chicago, secretary of the Council on Dental Health, said the proposed V.A. budget of \$11,500,000 for the "hometown" program for the new fiscal year, beginning July 1, was sound providing the restrictions were continued, including a time limit on applications for dental care and a limit on treatment to a one-time completion basis. In testimony before another committee, Dr. Friedrich testified in opposition to a bill proposed by Rep. Long (D., La.) which seeks to remove limitations on the amount of care a veteran can receive. He pointed out that removal of the limitations would require an appropriation at least twice the amount budgeted and would turn the clock back to the former situation of overwhelming backlogs of applicants.

### RECOMMEND LIMIT ON CARE FOR SIX MONTHS' TRAINEES

The administration's proposed National Reserve Plan was the subject of additional testimony, which was filed by the A.D.A. with

the House Armed Services Committee. In the testimony, Dr. Claude Earnest, of Monroe, La., vice-chairman of the Council on Legislation, urged that dental care for youths in the six-months training program be limited to emergency treatment. Under the proposed revision of the reserve system, 100,000 youths would be trained annually for six months as a "ready reserve." The Association also urged that higher dental standards be established for admission to the program.

## 76 U.S. AND CANADIAN DENTISTS TAKE PART IN CIVIL DEFENSE COURSE

Seventy-six dentists from the United States and Canada attended the recent civil defense course held at the Federal Civil Defense Administration training center in Olney, Md. The course was the second devoted specifically to the role of dentistry in civil defense. In addition to discussion of biological and chemical warfare and radioactive fall-out, the course included instruction in triage and management of wounds and shock. Representing the Association at the three-day session was Dr. Carl L. Sebelius, of Nashville, Tenn., chairman of the A.D.A. subcommittee on civil defense. Dr. Russell Bunting, of Ann Arbor, Mich., is dental consultant to the F.C.D.A.

## STATE DENTAL PRACTICE ACTS STRENGTHENED IN WEST VIRGINIA, ARKANSAS

Through efforts of the West Virginia State Dental Society and the Arkansas State Dental Association, the dental practice acts have been strengthened in both states. In West Virginia, the governor signed a bill increasing penalties for unauthorized practice of dentistry, establishing licensure of specialists and requiring yearly re-registration of dentists and hygienists. The bill was piloted through the legislature by two dentist legislators, Dr. James B. Poin-dexter, of Huntington, a member of the House, and Dr. R. J. Vassar, of Weston, a member of the Senate. The bill was introduced Jan. 28 and became a law on Feb. 18. In Arkansas, the practice act was revised to include provisions specifically prohibiting an unlicensed individual from advertising any dental services to the public or from selling or delivering any prosthetic appliance to any person other than a dentist. This bill was signed by the governor on Jan. 27, just 15 days after it was introduced.

## MASSACHUSETTS DENTAL SOCIETY FORMALLY COMMENDED BY STATE SENATE

The Massachusetts Senate recently passed two resolutions commending the Massachusetts Dental Society for its presentation of dental operations over closed circuit television, and for its contribution "in bringing new ideas and new research results to members of the dental profession, and thus advancing the general dental health of the citizens of the Commonwealth." Dr. George J. Fink, of Boston, is president of the society.

## ADM. MALONE SUCCEEDS ADM. RYAN AS NAVY DENTAL CHIEF

Rear Adm. Ralph W. Malone, inspector general of the Navy dental division, succeeded Rear Adm. Daniel W. Ryan March 3 as chief of the division. Adm. Ryan is relieving Rear Adm. Herman P. Riebe as inspector of dental activities on the Pacific coast and Adm. Riebe is moving to the post of inspector general. Adm. Malone entered the Navy in 1926 and for many years served as President Roosevelt's personal dentist.

## BRIEFS IN THE NEWS

An institute on oral cancer is being sponsored in three communities in Mississippi this month by the Mississippi State Dental Association in cooperation with the University of Mississippi, the American Cancer Society, the State Board of Health, the State Board of Dental Examiners, the State Medical Association and the State Board of Medical Examiners....Dr. Lon W. Morrey, of Chicago, editor of The Journal of the American Dental Association, has been chosen to serve as a member of the committee to select 1955 recipients of the Albert Lasker Award presented annually by the American Public Health Association for distinguished contributions to medical research and public health administration....Dr. Carl A. Frech, of Gary, Ind., has resigned as a member of the A.D.A. Council on Dental Education. Dr. Frech was one of the three representatives of the American Association of Dental Examiners on the council.... Colorado is the newest state to accept the certificate of the National Board of Dental Examiners. Dr. Victor L. Steffel, of Columbus, Ohio, chairman of the A.D.A. Council of the National Board of Dental Examiners, reported that the total now includes 28 states, Alaska, Puerto Rico, the Public Health Service, Army and Navy....The Vermont State Dental Society, at its recent mid-winter meeting, endorsed a program calling for the establishment of a state dental division with a full-time dental director.