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ada News Letter

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WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION SUPPORTS FLUORIDATION; 'EFFECTIVENESS, SAFETY AND PRACTICABILITY NOW ESTABLISHED,' EXPERTS' REPORT SAYS

The World Health Organization Sept. 4 issued a report that "the effectiveness, safety and practicability of fluoridation as a means of preventing dental caries, one of the most prevalent and widespread diseases in the world, is now established." The WHO report--the first global report issued on the public health program--was based on a study of hundreds of fluoridation programs in 17 countries, including the United States where the report noted that the procedure now serves some 32 million people in more than 1,500 communities. Fluoridation is approved by responsible health officials throughout the world, the report said, and "no other public health procedure during the initial stages of its application has had such a background in time or extent." As for aspects of safety, the report described observations and studies of scientists in many countries and said: "All of these findings fit together in a consonant whole that constitutes a great guarantee of safety; a body of evidence without precedence in public health procedures." The report was drawn up by an Expert Committee on Water Fluoridation which was called on by the WHO to meet at Geneva, Switzerland, in August. (See A.D.A. News Letter, July 15, 1957). The WHO dental health officer is Dr. Carl L. Sebelius, of Nashville, Tenn.

RESULTS EVERYWHERE SHOW 'REMARKABLE UNIFORMITY'

Results in all nations using fluoridated water show remarkable uniformity, the report said. The prevalence of dental caries in the permanent teeth of children decreased some 60 per cent while in children's primary teeth, the reductions were found to range from 50 to 60 per cent. "Furthermore, the children who benefited from fluoridated water had well-formed teeth, aesthetically superior and more resistant to caries than the teeth of other children," the report said. Among adult populations, the results were similar in areas where fluorides were found naturally in water supplies. With regard to engineering aspects, the report said fluoridation has proved to be similar to chlorination and other routine mechanical procedures widely employed in water works practice; and moreover, has been found practicable in different types of plants with different degrees of complexity of treatment.

-COUNTRIES FROM AUSTRALIA TO VENEZUELA HAVE PROGRAM

In addition to the United States, countries where the program is now in operation were listed as Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Germany, Great Britain, Japan, Malaya, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Panama Canal Zone, Sweden and Venezuela. The report said Norway and Switzerland were about to start programs. The Expert Committee on Water Fluoridation, whose members are also members of the larger WHO Expert Advisory Panel on Dental Health, included Professor Ingve Ericsson of the Royal School of Dentistry, Stockholm, serving as chairman; Professor A. J. Held of the University of Geneva, vice-chairman; Dr. Jean Forrest of the Ministry of Health, London; Dr. Paulo de Silva Freire of the Brazilian Public Health Service, Rio de Janeiro; Professor Harold C. Hodge of the University of Rochester, Rochester, N.Y.; Dr. K. L. Shourie of the Sir C. E. M. Dental College and Hospital, Bombay, and Dr. John W. Knutson of the U.S. Public Health Service, Washington, D.C.

A.D.A. PRAISED FOR STAND ON ASIAN FLU INOCULATIONS

The A.D.A. was praised last week for its "commendable position" in suggesting that dentists and auxilliary personnel be considered for a priority in the program of inoculations against Asian influenza to help assure the continuing availability of dental care. The commendation came in reply to a suggestion made on behalf of the Association to Surgeon General Leroy E. Burney of the U.S. Public Health Service at a special meeting of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers. In a telegram to Dr. Louis M. Cruttenden, of Chicago, assistant secretary of the A.D.A., Dr. W. P. Dearing, acting surgeon general, said: "The Public Health Service continues to urge that health and medical personnel be given first priority in vaccine against Asian influenza. The Association of State and Territorial Health Officers has specifically suggested that each level of government establish priorities through advisory committees. The commendable position taken by the American Dental Association should, therefore, be known to all its constituent groups." The wire also echoed a recommendation of the Association that dentists encourage use of the vaccine by others who should be receiving protection. "Furthermore, during consultation with their patients, dentists could provide valuable health education service by urging those with debilitating or partially disabling conditions to avail themselves of vaccine," the telegram said.

MILITARY QUESTIONNAIRES SENT TO DENTAL SCHOOLS

Nearly 4,000 questionnaires have been sent to the nation's dental schools for distribution to senior dental students. The questionnaires, issued by the A.D.A. Council on Federal Dental Services, are designed to give draft-eligible students an opportunity to indicate their preference for branch of service and to enable the Defense Department to make equitable allocations of graduation students to the Army, Navy and Air Force. The Department of Defense has informed the Selective Service System that it does not expect to place a call for dentists or physicians during the current fiscal year, which began July 1. The announcement is based on the fact that adequate numbers of '57 dental school graduates liable for military service under the regular draft law have sought dental corps commissions. Selective Service has issued orders to local draft boards that no dentists or physicians shall be called for pre-induction examination, or for induction, until further notice. Whether there will be any necessity to issue calls for 1958 graduates will depend on the number of senior dental students volunteering for commissions.

A.D.A. MEMBERSHIP APPROACHES 89,000

Latest membership figures of the A.D.A. show continuing gain. As of Aug. 31, A.D.A. membership stood at 88,878, representing an increase of 2,643 over the membership figures of the same date in 1956. The current total includes 73,878 active, 4,260 life, 209 affiliate, 20 associate, 15 honorary and 10,496 student memberships.

DR. W. R. ALSTADT TO ADDRESS N.A.D.L.

Dr. William R. Alstadt, of Little Rock, Ark., president-elect of the A.D.A., will address the National Association of Dental Laboratories at its seventh annual meeting to be held Oct. 17-20 in Dallas. A proposed certification program for dental laboratory technicians will be a principal order of business. The proposal was developed at a series of conferences between representatives of the A.D.A. and the N.A.D.L. Presiding at the meeting will be Mr. Nathan Cooper, of Baltimore, president of the N.A.D.L.

NEW NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE BILL INTRODUCED

A new version of a proposed national health insurance program will be before Congress when it reconvenes in January. Certain dental services would be made available to recipients of the Old Age and Survivors' Insurance program under the measure which seeks to establish a comprehensive hospital and surgical care program for OASI beneficiaries. Surgical care is defined in the bill to include "oral surgery when provided in a hospital." The bill was presented at the end of the 85th Congress's first session by Rep. Forand (D., R. I.), a prominent member of the House Ways and Means Committee to which the bill was referred. The program would be financed by increasing from \$4,200 to \$6,000 annually the OASI individual tax base.

SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT ARRANGED FOR GENERAL MEETING AT A.D.A. SESSION

Dr. Harry Lyons, of Richmond, Va., president of the A.D.A., will address the general meeting on Tuesday evening, Nov. 5, at the 98th annual session of the Association in Miami and Miami Beach. The general meeting will be held at the Fontainebleau Hotel in Miami Beach. In addition to the address by Dr. Lyons, there will be a concert by the noted "Strolling Strings" of the U.S. Air Force and a water ballet at the hotel pool. There will also be an orchestra for dancing at the Fontainebleau pavilion. The program is open without charge to all members and their guests. Ample hotel accommodations are still available for the four-day meeting, Nov. 4 through 7, according to Dr. Arthur W. Kellner, general chairman of the local arrangements committee. Applications should be sent to the A.D.A. Housing Bureau, Box 1511, Miami Beach.

3-DAY DENTAL PRACTICE FORUM SET FOR SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

"Efficient, effective dental care for more patients" is the theme of a forum on dental practice to be presented on the scientific program in Dinner Key Auditorium in Miami. The forum is one of several comprehensive sessions similar to refresher courses that will be conducted at the meeting. The dental practice forum, extending from Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 5, through Thursday morning, Nov. 7, will be divided into four parts, all panel discussions. The opening session on "Efficient Office Administration" will have as moderator Dr. Jay H. Eshleman, of Philadelphia, chairman of the A.D.A. Council on Dental Health; "Dental Auxiliaries" will be moderated by Dr. Maurice J. Hickey, of Seattle, dean of the School of Dentistry, Washington University; "High Speed Cutting Instruments," Dr. Clemens V. Rault, of Washington, D.C., dean of the School of Dentistry, Georgetown University, moderator, and "Partnerships, Groups and Associates in Dental Practice," Dr. C. E. Rutledge, of Richmond, Calif., chairman of the A.D.A. Judicial Council, moderator.

STATE OFFICERS CONFERENCE TO HEAR MALPRACTICE PANEL

A panel discussion, entitled "Malpractice IS an Occupational Hazard," will be presented at the Conference of State Society Officers which will be held Sunday, Nov. 3, at the Eden Roc Hotel in Miami Beach. Dr. Robert C. Frates, of San Francisco, will preside at the meeting. The panel, presented by members of the Southern California State Dental Association, will include Dr. Melvin E. Ralson as moderator, Dr. Carlton H. Williams, Dr. J. C. Almy Harding, Dr. J. Lorenz Jones, Dr. Earl J. Thee, Dr. Bruce R. Kurtz and Mr. James Robinson. Other speakers on the program will be Dr. Carl V. E. Cassel, secretary of the Minnesota State Dental Association; Mr. Perry J. Sandell, director of the A.D.A. Bureau of Dental Health Education, and Mr. John G. Rooks, executive secretary of the California State Dental Association. Dr. William R. Alstadt, president-elect of the A.D.A., will give a luncheon address on "Our Basic Responsibilities."

SYMPOSIUM ANNOUNCED BY ULTRASONICS COMMITTEE

An all-day symposium on ultrasonic dentistry will be held by the Committee for the Study of Ultrasonics in Dentistry on Sunday, Nov. 3, at the Hotel Seville in Miami Beach. Dr. Stanley D. Tylman is secretary of the committee. Persons interested in attending are asked to communicate with Dr. Tylman at the College of Dentistry, University of Illinois, 808 S. Wood St., Chicago.

OVER 1/4 BILLION DOLLARS SPENT ON ORAL HYGIENE PRODUCTS

Americans spent more than \$264 million on oral hygiene products last year, according to Drug Trade News. The report, based on the trade publication's 10th annual survey of consumer expenditures on products sold in drug stores, said \$155 million was spent on dentifrices, \$15 million on denture cleaners and adhesives and \$94 million on other oral hygiene products such as toothbrushes, mouth washes and gargles. The total represented an increase of more than \$11 million spent over the previous year, and was nearly \$23 million more than was spent for oral hygiene products in 1954. Simultaneously, millions of dollars were spent last year on dentifrice advertising nationally by producers of the product, as reported by another trade publication. According to Advertising Age's second annual market profiles of leading national advertisers, Colgate-Palmolive Co., New York, spent between \$14 and \$15 million on the promotion of their two toothpastes, Colgate Dental Cream and Brisk. Lever Brothers Co., New York, allotted \$10 million for Pepsodent's national advertising budget, and Procter and Gamble Co., Cincinnati, spent approximately \$7 million to advertise Gleem, one of their toothpastes.

CALIFORNIA HIGH COURT UPHOLDS FLUORIDATION ORDER

The California State Supreme Court has refused to interfere with an order of the California Public Utilities Commission for water fluoridation in the community of Oroville and an adjacent area. The high court's action on Aug. 13 in effect upheld what was probably the first order of its kind issued by a state regulatory body to a private company. The Public Utilities Commission issued the order last January which directed the private California Water Service Co. to place the procedure in operation in Oroville and a nearby section. The company contended it could not install the fluoridation program without a vote of its customers although the city government had asked that the program be started.

SCHEDULE 3-DAY SYMPOSIUM ON FLUORIDE AT CINCINNATI

A three-day symposium on fluorides will be held Dec. 9-11 at the Institute of Industrial Health, College of Medicine, University of

Cincinnati. Purpose of the Symposium will be to present current information on the physiological behavior of the absorption of fluoride. The symposium will be open to dentists and physicians in industry and public health and to other interested professional persons. Information about the conference can be obtained from the secretary, Institute of Industrial Health, Kettering Laboratory, Eden and Bethesda Aves., Cincinnati 19.

NOV. 11-15 ARE DATES FOR PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION MEETING

Three independent and three joint sessions are scheduled for members of the dental health section at the 85th annual meeting of the American Public Health Association to be held in Cleveland Nov. 11-15. Dr. John W. Knutson, of Washington, D.C., dental director of the U.S. Public Health Service, is president of the association. The three sections on dental health will be devoted to discussions on the extended use of auxiliary personnel, dental manpower and public health and a review of new technical development in fluoridation. The joint sessions will include reports on behavioral sciences in public health, health services for industrial workers and their families and radiation protection.

DR. G. C. PAFFENBARGER TO RECEIVE HENRY SPENADEL AWARD

Dr. George C. Paffenbarger, chief of the A.D.A. research division at the National Bureau of Standards, will be honored as the 1957 recipient of the Henry Spenadel Award at ceremonies Oct. 7 in the Hotel Statler, New York. The award is presented annually for "contributions to the welfare of humanity in the field of dentistry" by the First District Dental Society of the State of New York. A gold medal and scroll will be presented on behalf of the society by Dr. Louis I. Abelson, chairman of the award committee. Dr. Paffenbarger, an internationally known authority on dental materials, is a past president of the International Association for Dental Research. He is the author of many published reports on dental materials.

NEW ORLEANS DENTAL ASSOCIATION PREPARES NEWSPAPER COLUMN

A weekly column, "Dental Data," is now completing its first year in the daily newspaper New Orleans States. The column is made up of questions and answers and appears in the name of the New Orleans Dental Association. The column is a project of the society's Council on Dental Health.

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF DENTISTS SPONSORS WRITING COMPETITION

"Ethics in Dental Practice" is the topic selected for the 1958 annual writing award competition sponsored by the American College of Dentists. The competition is open to senior dental students in U.S. and Canadian schools. The purpose of the program, now in its second year, is "to create reader interest, to stimulate the more widespread use of libraries and to develop competent dental writers." An award of \$500 and a plaque will be presented for the outstanding essay. The deadline for receiving manuscripts is Feb. 1. Details about the competition can be obtained at the schools or from Dr. O. W. Brandhorst, secretary of the American College of Dentists, at 4221 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis.