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News Letter

Vol. 11, No. 2 - Wednesday, Jan. 15, 1958

CONTINENTAL CASUALTY COMPANY ADDS ORAL SURGERY BENEFITS TO ALL OF ITS HOSPITAL AND SURGICAL TYPE INSURANCE POLICIES

Continental Casualty Company of Chicago, one of the major companies in the health and accident field, has announced issuance of a new dental rider to all of its hospital and surgical type policies now in effect throughout the country. The rider, which is effective Jan. 1, 1958, provides, without additional cost to the policyholder, coverage for certain dental surgery for patients confined in a hospital. Dr. Clem Martin, medical director of Continental Casualty Company, said that the firm had decided to issue the dental rider to keep pace with modern medical progress. The rider eliminates any distinction between oral surgery and other types of surgery, thus providing the same basis for a claim for treatment of a fractured jaw by a dentist as that for treatment of a fractured leg by a surgeon. Dr. Martin said:

The extension of dental benefits is the result of Continental's continuing interest in medical advances. A dentist rather than a physician usually performs the kind of operation known as oral surgery. We see no reason for considering such operation different from an appendectomy or tonsillectomy when providing accident and health protection.

The rider provides that surgical benefits will be payable for oral surgery when it is necessary because of any injury, whether the operation is performed in the dentist's office or in a hospital. If the dental surgery is made necessary because of sickness or disease, or an extraction is required, the patient must be confined in a hospital in order to receive payment of a benefit. Prosthetic and reparative dentistry are specifically excluded from coverage. The rider also extends insurance coverage for the administration of anesthetics by both hospital employees and specialists in the field. The dental rider is believed to be one of the first of its kind to be issued in the U.S. on a blanket basis by a major insurance company.

NEW RIDER DESCRIBED AS 'A FORWARD STEP'

Dr. Jay H. Eshleman, of Philadelphia, chairman of the A.D.A. Council on Dental Health, described the action of Continental Casualty Company as a "forward step" in helping meet the public's health needs. Dr. Eshleman said:

This new rider is welcomed by the American Dental Association as indicative of a new trend to develop realistic programs for meeting the costs of dental care which in past years has been largely ignored in health insurance programs.

The dental profession has repeatedly emphasized the fact that dental health is an integral part of total health. The extension of insurance coverage to dental surgery performed in hospitals is a logical step in the direction of improving the total health of the public.

Dr. Rudolph H. Friedrich, of Chicago, secretary of the Council on Dental Health, reported that several other commercial insurance firms were studying similar riders. For several years, some Blue Shield programs have provided for payment to beneficiaries for oral surgery performed in hospitals. The first of the Blue Shield dental programs was launched several years ago in Pennsylvania and Massachusetts in cooperation with the respective state dental societies.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS \$3,689,513 FOR DENTAL RESEARCH

The National Institute of Dental Research awarded 613 grants totalling \$3,689,513 for dental research and training by institutions and individuals not associated with the federal government during the fiscal year which ended last June 30, according to a report of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. The dental research grants were among 10,096 grants totalling \$145,765,544 made by the National Institutes of Health during the year. The dental expenditures included 274 grants totalling \$2,692,462 for research projects, 319 research fellowship grants totalling \$497,051 and 20 training grants and traineeships totalling \$500,000. Total 1956-57 grants by the institutes follow: cancer, \$24,430,891 plus \$1,972,208 for field investigations; heart, \$24,098,113; allergy and infectious diseases, \$8,231,567; arthritis and metabolic diseases, \$10,371,255; dental research, \$3,689,513; mental health, \$20,116,915; neurological diseases and blindness, \$13,340,728. There were an additional \$9,514,449 in grants authorized by the Division of Research Grants and \$29,999,905 in grants for construction of research facilities.

CHICAGO MID-WINTER MEETING WILL OPEN SUNDAY, FEB. 2

The 93rd annual Mid-Winter Meeting of the Chicago Dental Society will be held at the Conrad Hilton Hotel, Feb. 2-5. The meeting will feature seven panel groups, 34 essays, 147 limited attendance clinics, 110 table clinics and a number of projected clinics and scientific exhibits. Attendance is expected to be approximately 16,000. Dr. Wayne Fisher is the general chairman. Dr. Walter Dundon is president of the Chicago Dental Society.

SECOND ASIAN DENTAL CONGRESS MEETS IN MANILA MARCH 24-30

The 2nd Asian Dental Congress will be held in Manila March 24-30. Meeting simultaneously will be the Asian-Pacific Dental Congress. Delegates are expected from 19 Asian countries. Representing the American Dental Association at these conferences will be Dr. W. R. Alstadt, A.D.A. president, who is scheduled to be one of the featured speakers at the meeting. All interested American dentists are invited to attend the meeting in Manila. Those who are planning to attend are urged to notify Dr. Alstadt, Boyle Building, Little Rock, Ark.

UNITED NATIONS EMPLOYEES NOW ENROLLING IN DENTAL INSURANCE PLAN

Members of the staff of the United Nations in New York and their dependents are now being enrolled in a contributory program of dental insurance being operated by Group Health Dental Insurance, Inc. Approximately 3,500 employees are eligible to enroll in the plan which will provide immediate benefits toward coverage of existing defects. Major emphasis, however, will be on preserving dental health through regular, preventive care, according to Dr. Bissell B. Palmer, president of G.H.D.I. United Nations employees with family incomes under \$5,000 a year will receive paid-in-full benefits if they use a "participating dentist." Those with higher incomes or those who select a "non-participating dentist" will be eligible for cash indemnities toward the cost of their dental care.

DENTISTS PLANNING FOREIGN TRIPS URGED TO JOIN F.D.I.

The many hundreds of U.S. dentists who are planning trips abroad this year are urged by Dr. Obed H. Moen, of Watertown, Wis., chairman of the A.D.A. Council on International Relations, to apply promptly for a supporting membership in the Federation Dentaire Internationale. Benefits in the F.D.I. will provide access to dental meetings in many parts of the world including the annual session of the F.D.I. which will be held in Brussels, Belgium, Aug. 27 to Sept. 2. Additionally, benefits of supporting membership include a beautifully engrossed membership certificate, suitable for framing, a membership card, an annual subscription to the International Dental Journal, and an annual subscription to the F.D.I. News Letter. A.D.A. members may obtain information on travel and hotel reservations for the Brussels meeting from Dr. C. W. Carrick, Oberlin Bank Building, Oberlin, Ohio, who is the travel consultant for F.D.I. members in the U.S.

ENROLLMENT AT DENTAL SCHOOLS SETS RECORD

As of Oct. 15, 1957, dental schools in the United States had an enrollment of 13,279 undergraduate students, believed to be a record high. This was a gain of 275 undergraduates over the enrollment for the corresponding date a year earlier and more than 1,100 higher than the enrollment for 1951, according to Dr. Shailer Peterson, secretary of the A.D.A. Council on Dental Education. Totals by classes were: freshmen, 3,600; sophomores, 3,363; juniors, 3,227, and seniors, 3,089. The undergraduates included 13,179 men and 100 women. In addition, dental schools had a total enrollment of 2,366 other students including 123 specials, 474 graduate, 455 postgraduate, and 1,314 dental hygiene students. The schools also had an enrollment of 5,017 students for refresher or continuation courses. Data on enrollment by individual schools and a variety of other information are contained in the 1957-58 edition of the Dental Students Register of the American Dental Association. Copies of the Register may be obtained without charge upon request to the Council on Dental Education, American Dental Association, 222 E. Superior St., Chicago 11, Ill.

A.D.A. MEMBERSHIP REACHES NEW HIGH AT END OF 1957

Membership in the A.D.A. reached a record high of 89,345 as of Dec. 31, an increase of 2,473 over the 1956 figure. California led all constituent societies with an increase of 120 members, followed by Southern California with an increase of 111. Michigan was third with an increase of 97. In all, 46 state societies and federal dental services showed an increase in membership and 13 showed a decrease. Membership in all categories for 1957 was: active, 74,421 (up 1,399); life, 4,162 (up 302); affiliate, 215 (up 12); associate, 20 (up 3); honorary, 17 (up 2), and student, 10,510 (up 745). Total active membership for constituent societies and federal dental services for 1957 follows:

	1957	1956		1957	1956
Alabama	671	627	New Hampshire	236	232
Alaska	39	43	New Jersey	3,024	2,981
Arizona	288	273	New Mexico	197	191
Arkansas	402	388	New York	10,996	10,902
California	3,084	2,964	North Carolina	974	978
California, Southern	3,772	3,661	North Dakota	204	200
Colorado	719	695	Ohio	3,689	3,607
Connecticut	1,450	1,430	Oklahoma	669	668
Delaware	118	113	Oregon	960	947
District of Columbia	517	529	Panama	18	15
Florida	1,201	1,148	Pennsylvania	4,973	4,883
Georgia	781	775	Puerto Rico	206	191
Hawaii	313	299	Rhode Island	382	388
Idaho	227	216	South Carolina	319	313
Illinois	4,855	4,845	South Dakota	214	219
Indiana	1,590	1,588	Tennessee	1,076	1,049
Iowa	1,153	1,163	Texas	2,469	2,388
Kansas	709	702	Utah	389	374
Kentucky	815	793	Vermont	123	125
Louisiana	784	774	Virginia	959	957
Maine	306	314	Washington	1,413	1,376
Maryland	911	867	West Virginia	491	500
Massachusetts	2,552	2,534	Wisconsin	2,020	2,040
Michigan	3,168	3,071	Wyoming	126	120
Minnesota	1,889	1,869			
Mississippi	405	398	Air Force	545	485
Missouri	1,718	1,695	Army	596	445
Montana	247	255	Navy	863	824
Nebraska	695	701	Public Health Service	213	183
Nevada	91	90	Veterans Administration	594	608
			Unorganized	13	13
			Total	74,421	73,022

A.D.A. RELIEF FUND REACHES A RECORD \$92,241 ON DEC. 31; TENNESSEE LEADS 23 CONSTITUENT SOCIETIES TOPPING 100 PER CENT MARK

The 1957-58 campaign of the A.D.A. Relief Fund reached \$92,241.28 on Dec. 31, to set a new record for contributions to that date. Last year at the same time contributions were \$90,692.43. Twenty-three constituent societies passed the 100 per cent mark, led by Tennessee with 246.2 per cent of its quota. Alaska is second with 183.3 per cent. Additional societies to pass the 100 per cent mark since Dec. 18 are: Arkansas, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota, Southern California, Washington, West Virginia, and Wyoming. As of Dec. 31, the smaller societies (quotas under \$1,000) had reached 102.7 per cent of their collective quota, and led the larger societies by 12 percentage points.

NEW YORK STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY ENDORSES FLUORIDATION

The policy-making council of the Medical Society of the State of New York last week endorsed water fluoridation. Dr. Thurman B. Givan, president, said that the state group has concluded after "careful consideration" that "beyond any reasonable doubt water fluoridation is an effective and safe procedure for preventing tooth decay." The society's conclusion was the same as that taken by the American Medical Association at Philadelphia in December. Shortly after their meeting, officials of the state medical society visited Mayor Robert Wagner at the New York City hall to inform him of the society's endorsement of fluoridation. Mayor Wagner was quoted in the press as reiterating his own support of fluoridation for New York City. The matter is now pending before the city's Board of Estimate. Meanwhile, it was announced by the U.S. Public Health Service that water fluoridation is now in operation in 1,556 U.S. cities and towns with a population of 32,730,856.

NEW VOCATIONAL BOOKLET PUBLISHED BY COUNCIL ON DENTAL EDUCATION

An attractive new booklet, entitled "Careers in Dentistry," has been published by the A.D.A. Council on Dental Education. The 20-page booklet provides general information on career opportunities in dentistry, the A.D.A. dental aptitude testing program, school programs and financing of a dental education. The booklet is designed to answer questions of young men and women who may be interested in becoming dentists. Copies of the booklet may be obtained free of charge upon request to Dr. Shailer A. Peterson, secretary of the Council on Dental Education, American Dental Association, 222 E. Superior St., Chicago 11, Ill.

DR. PAFFENBARGER ELECTED VICE-PRESIDENT OF A.A.A.S.

Dr. George C. Paffenbarger, A.D.A. senior research associate at the National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D.C., was elected chairman of the Section on Dentistry for 1958 at the 124th meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science held in Indianapolis last month. As a section chairman, Dr. Paffenbarger automatically becomes one of the vice-presidents of the organization. The program of the Section on Dentistry included a symposium on various aspects of water fluoridation. Mr. Bernard J. Conway, of Chicago, secretary of the A.D.A. Council on Legislation, presented a paper on the legal aspects of fluoridation.

DENTAL HYGIENISTS WELCOME VISITORS TO NEW HEADQUARTERS

Members of the dental and dental hygiene professions are invited to visit the new headquarters of the American Dental Hygienists' Association at 100 E. Ohio St., Chicago, during an open house Feb. 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., it is announced by Miss Margaret E. Swanson, association secretary. The A.D.H.A. transferred its headquarters from Washington, D.C. to Chicago last December.

AMERICAN DENTURE SOCIETY TO MEET IN CHICAGO

The American Denture Society will hold a two-day meeting at the Congress Hotel in Chicago Jan. 31 and Feb. 1. President of the society is Dr. Fred N. Harris, of Pasadena, Calif.