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Recommended Citation

American Dental Association, "ADA News Letter - 06/16/1958" (1958). *ADA News Letter*. 261.
<https://commons.ada.org/adanewsletter/261>

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A.D.A. News Letter

Vol. 11, No. 12 - Monday, June 16, 1958

HONORARY DEGREES CONFERRED ON TOP A.D.A. OFFICIALS

Honorary degrees of doctor of science have been conferred on two top officials of the A.D.A. at June convocation ceremonies.

KANSAS CITY AWARDS DEGREE TO DR. ALSTADT; TWO IN FAR EAST

Dr. William R. Alstadt, of Little Rock, Ark., A.D.A. president, was awarded the honorary doctor of science degree at commencement exercises June 1 at the University of Kansas City. The degree, the first of its kind conferred, in the 29-year-history of the school, was presented by Chancellor Richard M. Drake of the university. Earlier in the spring, during a trip to the Far East, Dr. Alstadt was the recipient of two honorary degrees of doctor of dental surgery, both awarded at ceremonies in Tokyo. One was conferred by Nihon University School of Dentistry and the other by Tokyo Dental College.

DR. HILLENBRAND RECEIVES HONORARY DEGREE FROM LOYOLA

Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, of Chicago, A.D.A. secretary, was presented with an honorary doctor of science degree from Loyola University in Chicago June 11 at the school's commencement exercises. Dr. Hillenbrand gave the commencement address.

A.D.A. MEMBERSHIP APPROACHES 90,000

Membership in the A.D.A. reached a high of 89,868 as of May 31, an increase of 523 over the total membership figure for 1957. The biggest gain came in student membership which, at 10,928, was up 418 over the year-end figure. For active membership, the figure for May 31, was 74,066, an increase of 1,181 over the same date a year ago and only 355 less than the total figure for 1957.

NAME THREE EDUCATORS TO NATIONAL ADVISORY DENTAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

Three educators have been named to the National Advisory Dental Research Council of the National Institute of Dental Research. The appointments are for four-year terms, beginning next October. Members of the council make recommendations on awarding research grants to schools and research centers outside the federal government. The new appointments include Dr. Willard C. Fleming, of San Francisco, dean of the School of Dentistry, University of California, who is also a member of the Commission on the Survey of Dentistry and of the A.D.A. Council on Dental Education; Dr. Harold L. Enarson, of Boulder, Col., executive director of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, and Dr. R.S. Poor, of Gainesville, Fla., provost of the J. Hillis Miller Health Center at the University of Florida.

Use the convenient blank on page A-14 of the June issue of The A.D.A. Journal to obtain your reservation for the A.D.A.'s 99th annual session at Dallas on Nov. 10-13.

MODIFIED VERSION OF JENKINS-KEOGH PLAN PRESENTED TO HOUSE

Rep. Simpson (R., Penn.) has introduced a modified version of the Jenkins-Keogh plan, advocated by the A.D.A. The new bill (H.R. 12725) would place an annual dollar limit of \$3,000 on the amount that could be set aside by self-employed persons for retirement purposes rather than the \$5,000 of the Jenkins-Keogh proposal and would place a lifetime limit of \$60,000 on the total amount that could be set aside rather than the \$100,000 of the original plan. Congressman Simpson is a ranking minority member of the House Ways and Means Committee. The Jenkins-Keogh plan, now pending in the House Ways and Means Committee, would give an opportunity to dentists and other self-employed persons to set aside their own retirement funds through a system of tax deferments similar to that accorded to employees of many business and industrial concerns. Rep. Jenkins (R., Ohio), who is retiring this year from Congress after 34 years of service, was praised by Sen. Bricker (R., Ohio) for his efforts on the measure. The Ohio senator urged Congress to act this session on the program.

A.D.A. TO TESTIFY ON FORAND BILL JUNE 27

An A.D.A. representative will testify on the Forand bill (H.R. 9467) June 27 at hearings being held by the House Ways and Means Committee on amendments to the Social Security Act. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Forand (D., R.I.), would provide hospitalization and surgical benefits, including oral surgery benefits, to recipients of Old Age and Survivors' Insurance benefits under the Social Security Act. The A.D.A. Board of Trustees last March went on record opposing the bill as "in conflict with the Association's principles governing federal support of personal health care programs."

HOUSE AND SENATE APPROVE PAY BOOST FOR CIVIL SERVICE WORKERS

The Senate and House of Representatives have approved a measure providing a 10 per cent pay increase for civilian government employees, retroactive to last January. Included in the increase would be dentists and physicians in the Veterans Administration where the proposed law would set up a differential between general practitioners and specialists of about 17 per cent as compared with the present 25 per cent. The Senate, in approving the increase, added several amendments including one that would admit to government service experienced scientists at salaries ranging to \$19,000 a year. The bill was sent to a House-Senate conference committee.

NEW BILL FOR TEACHING AND RESEARCH CONSTRUCTION INTRODUCED

Rep. Williams (D., Miss.), chairman of the health and science subcommittee of the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, has introduced a new proposal to provide a system of matching grants for construction of research and teaching facilities at dental and medical schools. The subcommittee is considering several bills on the program and representatives of the A.D.A. testified in April in favor of a federal matching grant program for the schools. Under Rep. Williams' proposal, the existing Research Facilities Construction Act would be extended three years and would permit institutions to include some teaching facilities within planned projects. The bill would provide \$30 million annually for dental and medical schools and research centers.

SEN. MURRAY OFFERS RESOLUTION FOR 1959 DENTAL HEALTH WEEK

A resolution authorizing the President of the United States to issue a proclamation during the Association's centennial year in 1959 to set aside Feb. 8-14 as National Children's Dental Health Week was presented to the Senate June 2 by Sen. Murray (D., Mont.). The resolution also invites "all agencies and organizations interested in child welfare to unite during that week in the observance of such exercises as will call to the attention of the people of the United States the fundamental necessity of a continuous program for the protection and development of the dental health of the nation's children." A proclamation was issued by President Eisenhower on the occasion of the 1958 observance.

FLUORIDATION NOT CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE, COMMITTEE TOLD

Water fluoridation was described as "actually one of the least controversial issues to come before the public in some time" at the annual meeting of the Committee To Protect Our Children's Teeth in New York. At the same time, the U.S. Public Health Service reported that the program, as of June 1, was in operation in 1,651 communities with combined populations of 33,516,121. The Committee To Protect Our Children's Teeth, which is headed by Dr. Benjamin Spock, noted pediatrician, heard Mr. Hugh R. Jackson, president of the National Social Welfare Assembly, who said the beneficial effect of fluoridation is clear "in the light of the overwhelming majority of expert scientific judgment." Mr. Jackson, who is also president of the Better Business Bureau of New York City and a director of United Community Funds and Councils of America, said it would be "perfectly simple" for laymen "to accept the virtually unanimous approval of those who through their scientific and professional background and experience are best qualified to advise us of the advantages and possible disadvantages." He added:

Yet the voices of a relatively few people, including some whose professional reputation and standing in no way qualify them as leaders of thought or advice in the field, have succeeded in creating doubts and fears in the public mind and have created the impression that this is a highly controversial issue.

Mr. Jackson, who is also vice-president of the Advertising Club of New York, cited examples of methods employed by some anti-fluoridationist groups such as "misrepresenting through incomplete disclosure," "false use of endorsers' names" and "false and misleading advertising."

DOCTOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE CONFERRED ON DR. MCKAY

Dr. Frederick S. McKay, of Colorado Springs, whose pioneer studies in Colorado early in the century paved the way for the fluoridation procedure, was awarded a doctor of science degree from Colorado College in Colorado Springs June 2. In 1951, the A.D.A. House of Delegates unanimously voted honorary membership for Dr. McKay.

AMERICAN HERITAGE CAMPAIGN ENDORSED BY DR. ALSTADT

The non-partisan campaign of the American Heritage Foundation to encourage financial support by all citizens of the political parties and candidates of their choice in the 1958 congressional elections has been endorsed by Dr. William R. Alstadt, of Little Rock, Ark., Association president. In a letter to Mr. John C. Cornelius, of New York, president of the American Heritage Foundation, Dr. Alstadt noted that the A.D.A. is on record in favor of the foundation's Register and Vote Campaign and added: "To the extent that we can increase the personal participation of each citizen by encouraging him to vote and to be interested actively in the 1958 election campaign, to this extent we are strengthening our democratic institutions. It must be remembered that 'the man who takes no part in politics is governed by the man who does.' It is my hope that all citizens will not only register and vote on an informed basis but that they will contribute financially to the political party or the candidate of their choice this year."

DR. DONALD MILLER DIES; MEMBER OF COUNCIL ON DENTAL HEALTH

Dr. Donald H. Miller, of Elmira, N.Y., member of the A.D.A. Council on Dental Health, died June 8 at St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira. He was 58 years old April 1. Dr. Miller served two terms on the council, from 1949 to 1955, part of the time as vice-chairman, and was named last fall to fill a vacancy until November, 1958. Dr. Miller was a former president of the Dental Society of the State of New York, a member of its board of governors, and the first chairman of the Council on Dental Health of the state society. He was also a past president of the Sixth District Dental Society and the Elmira Dental Society. Dr. Miller had long been a commissioner of the Elmira Board of Health. He received his dental degree from the School of Dentistry, University of Buffalo, in 1922.

A.D.A. MEMBERS INVITED TO JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA

A.D.A. members are invited to participate in meetings in Japan and Australia early in 1959. An invitation to attend the national convention of the Japan Dental Association to be held in Tokyo in late March has been extended by Dr. Toshio Kashima, of Tokyo, managing director of the society. Americans are invited to present essays and table clinics. The Australian Dental Association will hold its 15th Australian Dental Congress in Adelaide, South Australia, Feb. 23-27. U.S. dentists interested in participating in the program as essayists or clinicians are asked to communicate with Dr. William A. Elsasser, of San Francisco, who has been designated as the Australian association's program chairman for U.S. and Canadian participants. The president of the congress is Dr. Malcolm S. Joyner, of Adelaide. Information about both the Japanese and Australian meetings can be obtained at the Institute of Pacific Seminars, 578 Grand Ave., Oakland 10, Calif.

ISSUE LISTING OF 1958 A.D.A. DENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION MATERIALS

A listing of 1958 dental health education materials available from the A.D.A. has been sent to all Association members. The new folder, which describes materials designed especially for use in the dental office and in schools, is simplified and more easily readable than the A.D.A. catalogs of previous years. Plans call for three more folders listing A.D.A. materials to be issued shortly, one to contain a list of professional aids for the dentist; another, dental health education material designed for use by health and civic agencies and groups, and the third, a listing of films, slides and other visual aids.

DENTAL EXHIBIT INCLUDED AMONG FINALISTS AT NATIONAL SCIENCE FAIR

A 17-year-old high school senior of Rock Island, Ill., achieved ranking as a finalist with a dental exhibit at the recent National Science Fair in Flint, Mich. Miss Janet Alongi prepared an exhibit entitled "How Do Our Teeth Behave in Chemical Solutions?" It depicted the results of experiments on teeth treated in test tubes of chemicals. The National Science Fair climaxed competition among high school boys and girls throughout the country at local and regional science fairs. The A.D.A. House of Delegates last November endorsed the science fair movement and urged that constituent and component societies support projects and participate in science fairs at the community and state levels.

SEN. HILL RECEIVES AWARD OF MERIT FROM GEORGETOWN

Sen. Hill (D., Ala.) was the recipient of the annual Award of Merit of the School of Dentistry, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., at the annual awards night dinner of the school. Sen. Hill was honored for "significant contributions to the health of the nation and dentistry in particular." He is chairman of the subcommittee on health, education and welfare of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

BRIEFS IN THE NEWS

Dr. LeRoy M. Ennis, of Philadelphia, former A.D.A. president, was presented with the annual award of the Pennsylvania State Dental Society at its meeting in Harrisburg. The award is conferred annually on the Pennsylvania dentist "whose public life and activities have been of such nature as to reflect great credit to his profession."...The Women's Auxiliary of the Michigan State Dental Association has presented \$3,435 to the association for the relief fund. The check represented the proceeds of the auxiliary's 1958 scrap drive....The 1958 Directory of Member Organizations of the National Health Council is available. It contains detailed information about 63 member groups, including the A.D.A., and is issued by the council at 1790 Broadway, New York 19....Dr. Katherine Bain is new deputy chief of the U.S. Children's Bureau. A former practicing pediatrician, she joined the Children's Bureau in 1940 and has been assistant to the bureau chief for program development....Dr. Don C. Lyons, of Jackson, Mich., was installed as president and Dr. George G. Stewart, of Philadelphia, as president-elect at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Dental Medicine in Montreal.