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CENTENNIAL SESSION - NEW YORK - SEPT. 14-18



News Letter

Vol. 12, No. 7 - Friday, May 1, 1959

DENTISTS URGED TO COOPERATE IN 1959 SURVEY OF DENTAL PRACTICE

Nearly one-half of the nation's dentists will be asked to cooperate in a survey of dental practice to be conducted by the A.D.A. Bureau of Economic Research and Statistics in mid-May. A special purpose of the 1959 study is to obtain factual data regarding dental practice that can be used in considering insurance programs for dentistry. The information is also needed to counteract misinformation being used in some proposed schemes involving dental health. It will be of particular value to representatives of the profession who need to deal with government and private agencies in program planning. "What is needed basically is an accurate picture of the amount and type of dental services being given throughout the country together with the age and sex of patients receiving the services," Mr. B. Duane Moen, director of the Bureau of Economic Research and Statistics, said. The first part of the questionnaire will deal with general information about the practice of the individual dentist and the second part will be a chart on which the dentist will be requested to keep a record of one day of practice during the week of May 18. Each questionnaire will be without identification and no signature will be required. Dentists who receive the questionnaire are urged to cooperate in providing the requested information. The results of the study will provide a yardstick against which the individual dentist will be enabled to measure his own practice. Dentists participating in the survey can request an advance summary of results by returning a postcard that will be enclosed with the questionnaire.

100,000 PRELIMINARY PROGRAMS FOR CENTENNIAL SESSION DISTRIBUTED

As a forerunner to the A.D.A. Centennial Session, 100,000 copies of a preliminary program for the meeting have now been distributed to all members of the Association, to dentists abroad planning to attend the New York meeting and that of the Federation Dentaire Internationale and to officials of allied professional organizations. The Centennial Session will be held Sept. 14-18 in New York City. The F.D.I. is holding its 47th annual session simultaneously with that of the Association. The preliminary program is noteworthy for several features. One is a detailed article on activities and services of the Association. Another is an article on the F.D.I. And the third is a concise report on the scientific program, revealing its unusually comprehensive aspect. Included also are descriptions of the many special events being held in connection with the Centennial Session and an interesting description of New York City. The 135-page volume contains an application for housing reservations at the five-day meeting. Ample hotel accommodations are available. The application should be sent to the American Dental Association Housing Bureau, P.O. Box 5440, Chicago 7.

\$9,725,000 VOTED FOR DENTAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING PROGRAMS

An appropriations bill, carrying a \$2,305,000 increase for dental research and training grants, was before the House of Representatives for action April 30. The increase—\$305,000 more than was recommended by the A.D.A. in congressional testimony April 15—was approved by the House Appropriations Committee to make for a total of \$9,725,000 for programs to be carried out under the auspices of the National Institute of Dental Research for the new fiscal

year, beginning July 1. The floor leader for the bill, which includes funds for the Department of Labor and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, is Rep. Fogarty (D., R.I.), chairman of the subcommittee that recommended the increase for the dental programs.

BILLS TO REGULATE 'MECHANICAL DENTISTRY' IN CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

Hearings are scheduled to be held May 19 on proposals before the lower house of the California state legislature that would regulate the practice of "mechanical dentistry." Two similar bills call for the creation of a state board of dental technician examiners to be composed of three dental laboratory owners, three dental technicians and "one member from organized labor." "Mechanical dentistry" is defined as "the construction, making, alteration or repairing of any and all artificial appliances and restorations used or placed in the human mouth." Observers indicated that the measures could give dental technicians the right to make and repair prosthetic appliances "entirely independent of a licensed dentist." In Illinois, a so-called "denturist" bill was expected to be introduced this week in the state legislature at Springfield. "Denturist" bills were presented in the Illinois legislature twice previously, in 1955 and 1957. Information was that the new measure would be introduced in the Senate rather than in the lower house where the earlier bills had met defeat. A report on the 1958-'59 legislative activities of the "public denturists" appears in the May issue of The Journal of the American Dental Association.

1960 A.D.A. APPOINTMENT BOOK IS NOW AVAILABLE

The 1960 A.D.A. Appointment Book, changed somewhat from previous editions, is now available. The book contains darker ruled lines than in the past to make easier the readability of the patient's name and time of appointment. In compliance with requests, only the hours are indicated with one additional line for half-hour appointments. Lines for quarter-hour appointments have been eliminated. The appointment book has a leather-like cover and is case bound. It is available for \$3 from the A.D.A. Order Department, 222 E. Superior St., Chicago 11.

INDIANA U. CONFERS HONORARY DEGREE ON DR. LON W. MORREY

Dr. Lon W. Morrey, of Chicago, editor of The Journal of the American Dental Association, was awarded an honorary degree of doctor of laws from Indiana University at ceremonies April 22 marking the formal dedication of the school's new \$7,350,000 medical science building. Earlier in the year, Dr. Morrey received a distinguished service award from the Odontographic Society of Chicago "in appreciation of his contributions to dental journalism and literature."

FLUORIDATION PROCEDURE FOUND TO BE PRACTICAL FOR NEW YORK CITY

Water fluoridation was called practical for the nation's largest city in a special report issued April 17 by Dr. Herman E. Hilleboe, of Albany, state health commissioner of New York. The report for New York City, based on a study of the water systems of 20 major cities that fluoridate their water, was prepared in the research division of the College of Engineering of New York University. The study was ordered by the Health Department after city officials had questioned the practicability of the program in a city the size of New York. The program has been in operation for several years in the second and third largest cities of the country, Chicago and Philadelphia. "From a public health viewpoint, on the basis of the information submitted in this report, I see no difficulty that can't be overcome by standard engineering practices in extending this program to New York City," Dr. Hilleboe said.

THERE ARE NO UNSOLVED ENGINEERING PROBLEMS

The report made these points: (1) Fluorides will not corrode pipes or become too weak to be effective. (2) There are no insoluble basic engineering problems in the handling of fluorides, including equipment, control of the amount of the substance and employe safety. (3) Proper mixing of the fluoride substance requires about the same process as that used to introduce chlorine and other chemicals in water systems. (4) The average annual cost of fluoridation is seven or eight cents for each person in a community. (5) Water fluoridation has not affected the usefulness of the water to industry.

DEPENDENT DENTAL CARE AT BASES OR PRIVATE OFFICES AUTHORIZED IN BILL

A bill to provide additional dental care for military dependents was introduced in the House of Representatives last week by Rep. Price (D. Ill). It was the second measure involving dental care for dependents that was presented to Congress this spring. Earlier, Rep. Dent (D. Penn.) introduced a bill to provide "on-the-base" care for dependents. The newest measure would amend the Medicare Act to: (1) authorize "complete dental care" in armed forces facilities, subject to the availability of space and facilities and the capabilities of the dental staff; (2) require the Secretary of Defense to contract for dental care for dependents "under such insurance, dental service or dental health plan as he considers appropriate." On the second point, partial payment would be required for dependents over the age of 16. There would also be moderate charges for care at military bases. Dependents would be permitted to choose care at bases or from a civilian dentist. The bill was referred to the House Armed Services Committee of which Rep. Price is a ranking member. It was considered possible that the measure was inspired unofficially by the Air Force to test reaction. Rep. Price has said that the proposal "is designed to complete the health program for military families." The A.D.A. House of Delegates last November questioned the desirability at the present time of making dental health benefits available to military dependents under a federally-financed program and requested a further report on the whole subject to be presented at the 1959 meeting in New York in September.

GOAL OF 95,000 MEMBERS SET FOR A.D.A. CENTENNIAL YEAR

A goal of 95,000 members has been set for the Centennial Year of the Association, it was announced this week by Dr. A. Brooks Drake, of Huntington, W.Va., chairman of the A.D.A. Council on Membership. Dr. Drake, pointing out that membership had reached an all-time high of 91,505 for last year, noted that 3,500 additional members are needed for the 1959 objective. As one encouraging aspect of the drive, he pointed to an increase to date of 1,000 student members over all of last year. "We are hopeful that the 1959 membership figure will be in keeping with the impressiveness of a Centennial Year of a major health organization," Dr. Brooks said.

DR. PHILLIPS ADDRESSES NUMEROUS STATE SOCIETY MEETINGS

Dr. Percy T. Phillips, of New York, president of the A.D.A., is appearing before a number of dental societies this spring. In May, he will speak before the Southern California Dental Association, the Dental Society of the State of New York, the New Jersey State Dental Society and the South Carolina Dental Society, and in June he will address the Hawaii Dental Society and the Mississippi Dental Association. In April, he spoke at meetings of the Virginia State Dental Association, the Michigan State Dental Association, the Kansas State Dental Association and the Wisconsin State Dental Society. Additionally, in March, Dr. Phillips addressed the Hinman Clinic in Atlanta and the Greater Philadelphia Meeting.

HOUSE JUDICIARY UNIT APPROVES A.D.A. CENTENNIAL MEASURE

The Judiciary Subcommittee of the House of Representatives on April 20 approved a resolution congratulating the Association on its Centennial Year and commending dentists in the United States for having "achieved world-wide recognition for their contributions to improved health." Earlier, the resolution was unanimously adopted by the Senate. Eighty senators joined in sponsoring the measure.

PATTERSON DENTAL SUPPLY COMPANY MAKES \$5,000 GRANT TO CENTENNIAL

The M. F. Patterson Dental Supply Co. has made a grant of \$5,000 to the A.D.A. for use in Centennial Year activities. The grant will be used to provide travel grants for outstanding dentists from abroad. The grants will enable them to appear on the scientific program at the Centennial Session to be held Sept. 14 through 18 in New York City. Included will be research men, educators and practitioners from Argentina, India, Ireland, Egypt, Sweden, Holland and Greece.

DR. F. A. BULL, WISCONSIN STATE DENTAL DIRECTOR, DIES

Dr. Francis A. Bull, director of the dental division of the Wisconsin State Board of Health since 1936 and widely known for his activities on behalf of the fluoridation procedure, died April 11 in Milwaukee. He was 62 years old. Dr. Bull in 1939 was first vice-president of the A.D.A. and in more recent years had served on the Association's Council on Dental Health. He was also a past president of the American Association of Public Health Dentists. For many years he had served as a member of the Wisconsin delegation in the A.D.A. House of Delegates. He was a veteran of World War I and II. His dental degree was obtained from Marquette University and a master's degree in public health from the University of Michigan.

TEST PORTABLE DENTAL EQUIPMENT FOR HOMEBOUND PATIENTS

Portable dental equipment is being tested by the U.S. Public Health Service for use in giving home or bedside treatment to patients unable to visit dentists' offices. The movable equipment consists of two 45-pound cases of instruments which can be operated from an ordinary household electrical outlet. An estimated 5.5 million persons in the United States are too disabled to visit a dentist.

1959 VOLUME OF 'INDEX TO DENTAL LITERATURE' NOW AVAILABLE

The annual bound volume of the Index to Dental Literature for 1959 is now available and can be obtained for \$ 10 from the A.D.A. Order Department, 222 E. Superior St., Chicago 11. The volume lists 7,580 articles in English from 921 different issues of dental periodicals. There are 15,759 entries by subject and author.

OKLAHOMA SOCIETY LAUNCHES FOUNDATION WITH TEACHER-TRAINING WORKSHOP

A one-day workshop on dental health education for health instructors at teachers' colleges throughout the state was the initial project of a dental foundation established by the Oklahoma State Dental Association. Articles of incorporation for the Oklahoma Dental Foundation for Research and Education were signed at a workshop of the society in Oklahoma City. The board of trustees consists of nine members, headed by Dr. V. C. Tisdal Jr., Elk City, Okla., with Mr. Bert Castleberry, of Oklahoma City, executive secretary of the society, as secretary of the foundation. Tentative plans have also been drawn for research into the relationship between dental and mental health, including field studies in state mental institutions and in penal institutions.

BRIEFS IN THE NEWS

A.D.A. members are invited to the seventh annual National Civil Defense Conference to be held June 6 in Atlantic City at the Traymore Hotel. Information about the program, to be presented by the Army Medical Service under the auspices of the A.M.A. Council on National Defense, can be obtained from the A.D.A. Council on Federal Dental Services....Dr. Lester Burket, of Philadelphia, chairman of the A.D.A. Council on Dental Therapeutics, will represent the Association at the keynote session of the convention of the National League for Nursing to be held May 11-15 in Philadelphia....For the first time in 13 years, the Canadian Dental Association will hold its national convention in Nova Scotia. The meeting will take place June 21-24 at the Nova Scotia Hotel in Halifax....The potentialities of a future International Health Year will be a principal topic at the 2nd National Conference on Health sponsored by the National Citizens Committee for the World Health Organization, May 7-9, at the Statler-Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C. Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, of Chicago, A.D.A. secretary, is a member of the organization's board of directors....Fourteen new research grants amounting to \$ 126,251 were awarded by the National Institute of Dental Research in March....If forced to choose between spending money for health research or "putting the first man on the moon," an overwhelming majority of Americans would give dollars to research, according to a survey of space age opinion made for the National Association of Science Writers by the University of Michigan Survey Research Center. The report is entitled "Satellites, Science and the Public."