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## ADA News Letter - 05/15/1959

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CENTENNIAL SESSION - NEW YORK - SEPT. 14-18



# News Letter

Vol. 12, No. 8 - Friday, May 15, 1959

## SPECIAL CENTENNIAL ISSUE OF 'THE JOURNAL' SCHEDULED FOR JUNE

"A century of health service" will be evaluated in a special centennial issue of The Journal of the American Dental Association in June. Many of the nation's leading dental authorities have contributed to the 256-page publication marking the 100th anniversary of the A.D.A. There will be a three-part section on the history of the Association, a five-part section on developments in dental science, a three-part section on dental education, and various individual articles, among them a look at "Dentistry of Tomorrow." Included also will be a number of congratulatory messages, ranging from those from President Eisenhower and the U.S. Congress to the presidents of such groups as the American Medical Association, American Hospital Association, American Bar Association, American Public Health Association and American Pharmaceutical Association and the heads of such agencies as the World Health Organization. The publication will also contain a number of rare historical pictures indicating highlights in organized dentistry's growth as well as pictures showing the wide range of activities in which the profession is engaged today. In an introduction to the issue, Dr. Percy T. Phillips, of New York, A.D.A. president, under the heading "The First Century," writes of the founding and development of the A.D.A. and adds:

Those of us who are privileged to practice as our Association completes the first 100 pages of its history can look back on the development of dentistry during the past century and on the men responsible for that development with profound respect and admiration. But in the words of Charles Kettering, one of America's most famous researchers, "We must use the past as a guidepost, not as a hitching post—we are not at the beginning. We have but reached the shores of a great unexplored continent. We cannot turn back."

Dr. Lon W. Morrey, editor of The Journal, pointed out that the contents of the special issue are intended in part as a significant reference work, and said: "Our goal has been to offer a fitting tribute to a major element in the nation's health services and to provide a permanent record of organized dentistry's distinguished background of achievements."

## A.D.A. MEMBERSHIP REACHES ALL-TIME HIGH OF 91,538

Membership in the Association as of April 30 reached 91,538, exceeding the year-end total for all of 1958. The figure for 1958 was 91,505. A goal of 95,000 members has been set by the Council on Membership for the Centennial Year of the Association, leaving a need for only 3,462 more members to reach the 1959 goal. It was noted by the council that between April 30 last year and the end of the year, there was an increase of 3,785 members, "With the new all-time record in membership so early in the year, we are confident that the Centennial Year of the Association will appropriately be accompanied by a membership figure reflecting the support of the Association by virtually all the ethical dentists of the country," Dr. A. Brooks Drake, of Huntington, W. Va., chairman of the Council on Membership, said.

## 101,623 DENTISTS IN U.S.; INCREASE OF 1,089 IN YEAR

There were 101,623 dentists in the United States in mid-1958, representing an increase of 1,089 dentists from the previous year and 2,396 from the previous two years. The newest tabulation, according to the report issued this week by the A.D.A. Bureau of Economic Research and Statistics, comprises 94,649 civilian dentists and 6,974 in the federal dental services, including 5,848 serving in the Army, Navy and Air Force, 787 in the Veterans Administration and 339 in the U.S. Public Health Service. The report was based on the 1959 American Dental Directory.

### RATIO OF ONE DENTIST FOR EACH 1,692 PERSONS

increase in numbers of dentists. The new report shows one dentist for every 1,692 persons compared with a ratio of one to every 1,679 persons a year earlier and one to every 1,671 two years before.

The latest figures reflect a continuation of the trend nationally of the past few years of a population growth somewhat greater than the

### TREND TOWARD UNIFORM DISTRIBUTION CONTINUES

for more than every 2,000 persons, there were 16 states that showed an increase in the proportion of dentists to population compared with the year previously and, conversely, of 23 states with ratios of one dentist for less than 2,000 persons, 11 states had a decrease in the proportion of dentists to population. In the Southeast region, for example, there was one dentist for every 2,929 persons in contrast to the figure a year earlier of one for every 2,988 while the report for the Southwest showed one dentist to every 2,892 persons compared with 2,935 the year before.

At the same time, however, the trend also continued toward a more uniform distribution of dentists. Of 25 states with ratios of one dentist

### NEWEST COUNT SHOWS FIGURES FOR REGIONS

Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Next again in ratio was New England with one dentist for every 1,501 persons. The Far West, including California, Nevada, Oregon and the state of Washington, again was third with one dentist for each 1,507 persons. The Central States came next with one dentist for every 1,743 persons and the Northwest followed with a ratio of one to 1,858.

The area with the lowest ratio, one dentist for every 1,430 persons, continued to be the section that includes Delaware, the District of

### NEW YORK LEADS ALL STATES; DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FIRST

each 1,375 persons. The next three states and the population per dentist were Connecticut, 1,376; Massachusetts, 1,392, and Minnesota, 1,400. The District of Columbia again had a lower ratio than any of the states with one dentist for each 1,085 persons.

New York again had a lower ratio than any of the states with one dentist for each 1,161 persons. Oregon was second with one dentist for

## CALIFORNIA DENTIST INITIATES CENTENNIAL SESSION GRANTS BY F.D.I.

Members of the Federation Dentaire Internationale in the United States have contributed \$1,000 to the Association to provide travel grants to individuals abroad to enable them to participate in the Centennial Session of the A.D.A. The 100th anniversary meeting will be held Sept. 14-18 in New York City. The 47th annual meeting of the F.D.I. is taking place simultaneously with that of the Association. The project for the grants was initiated and carried out by Dr. Carl Ellertson, of Palo Alto, Calif., a member of the F.D.I. Selection of the recipients for the grants will be made by the A.D.A. Council on International Relations and Council on Scientific Session. There are 1,400 U.S. members of the F.D.I. Membership in the international organization is made up of two categories: that of national dental societies and that of individual or "supporting" members.

## RELIEF FUND CONTRIBUTIONS REACH \$109,049

Contributions to the A.D.A. Relief Fund reached \$109,049 on April 30, representing 109 per cent of the \$100,000 quota. As the drive was in its final weeks, 45 constituent societies and one federal dental service exceeded their respective quotas.

## OKLAHOMA KILLS 'DENTURIST' BILL; 'DENTUROLOGIST' BILLS IN MICHIGAN

A "public denturist" bill has been defeated in a fourth state legislature, that of Oklahoma, while a new state has entered the legislative scene with bills that would permit dental laboratory technicians to provide prosthetic services directly to the public. The newcomer is Michigan where similar "denturologist" measures have been introduced in both the upper and lower house at Lansing. The bills would set up a special licensing board for the "denturologists" and give the technicians the right to deal with the public. The bill in Oklahoma was killed May 4 in the House of Representatives. Earlier, similar measures were defeated in Nevada, Georgia and the state of Washington. Proposals to regulate the practice of "mechanical dentistry" are now pending in the California state legislature. There was also still the possibility that a "denturist" bill would be presented at the current session of the Illinois General Assembly.

### 'ANYONE' PERMITTED TO CARE FOR PATIENTS IN SASKATCHEWAN

dental profession to improve the dental practice act for the province was sharply amended and approved by the legislative assembly. As passed by the lawmakers, the measure permits anyone to provide prosthetic treatment provided only that the patient has obtained in advance "a certificate of oral health" from a medical practitioner or a member of the College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan. Because of the new development in Saskatchewan, there was serious concern also in neighboring Manitoba where there was a possibility of similar legislation in the immediate future and in the westernmost provinces of Alberta and British Columbia.

In Canada, legislation in the western provinces presented a serious challenge. In Saskatchewan, a bill sponsored initially by the

## HOUSE APPROVES NEARLY \$10 MILLION FOR DENTAL RESEARCH

The House of Representatives has approved and sent to the Senate an appropriations bill that includes \$ 9,725,000 for dental health activities for the new fiscal year, beginning July 1. The figure represents an increase of \$ 2,305,000 over the current budget for research, training and fellowship grants. In congressional testimony, A.D.A. representatives had recommended an increase of \$ 2 million. A report submitted to the House by Rep. Fogarty (D., R.I.) on behalf of the House Appropriations Committee took strong issue with administration proposals on the budget which for the dental section were set again at the current figure. Pointing to the nation's dental bill of more than \$ 1.5 billion yearly and to various research efforts, Rep. Fogarty said: "With these promising leads and with the appropriation. . . amounting to considerably less than one per cent of the annual cost of the disorders with which it deals, it seems almost inconceivable that a budget would be submitted that would cut back the level of activities."

## NEW CENTENNIAL FILM, 'A NEW DAY IN DENTISTRY,' MADE FOR TELEVISION

A new Centennial Year film, "A New Day in Dentistry," designed for showing to the public, has been produced by Luxene, Inc., and is being offered to television stations throughout the country. The film, which runs for 13 minutes and is in black and white, salutes the A.D.A.'s 100th anniversary and then dramatizes widely varied activities of a dentist in general practice. It is a good film from a public relations standpoint. Initial requests for the film were made by 10 television stations, including the following:

WMAR-TV, Baltimore, Md.  
WWTW-TV, Cadillac, Mich.  
WTTW, Chicago  
KFRE-TV, Fresno, Calif.  
WOOD-TV, Grand Rapids, Mich.

KTRK-TV, Houston, Texas  
WILX-TV, Jackson, Mich.  
WGAL-TV, Lancaster, Penn.  
KGNS-TV, Laredo, Texas  
KXLY-TV, Spokane, Wash.

It is suggested that representatives of dental societies in these areas may wish to phone or call on the station to indicate the society's interest in the program. As other television stations request the film, local dental society officials will be routinely notified by the Association. The film is also available for showing before local community groups and can be borrowed from the A.D.A. film library, 222 E. Superior St., Chicago 11.

## DR. PHILLIPS NAMED TO NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON HOSPITALS AND CLINICS

Dr. Percy T. Phillips, of New York, A.D.A. president, has been named to a new National Advisory Committee on Hospitals and Clinics. The committee, composed of nine leaders in the clinical, administrative and preventive health fields, is being established to provide counsel on the health care and maintenance services in the hospitals and outpatient facilities of the U.S. Public Health Service. The committee will report to U.S. Surgeon General L. E. Burney of the Public Health Service.

## A.D.A. GIVES AWARDS TO FOUR YOUNG PEOPLE AT NATIONAL SCIENCE FAIR

Four outstanding high school students were honored by the A.D.A. at the National Science Fair which was held May 6-9 in Hartford, Conn. Announcement of the awards for exhibits in dental science was made by Dr. Paul H. Jeserich, of Ann Arbor, Mich., president-elect of the Association, at an awards dinner at which citations were conferred by the A.D.A., American Medical Association and American Veterinary Medical Association. Exhibits were presented by 319 young scientists. The event, climaxing the program of high school science fairs held throughout the country this spring, marked the A.D.A.'s initial participation in the science fair movement. The House of Delegates last November urged dental societies to take part in the program. Dr. Jeserich, in making the A.D.A. awards, challenged the young people to direct their talents toward the solution of current problems of dental health and disease and pointed to the need for additional dentists. He said:

Every practicing dentist serves an average of 1,100 patients each year and, within the next 10 years, may have to serve several hundred more. Water fluoridation, improved equipment, new therapeutic technics, and the availability of dental hygienists and other assistants are helping immensely to reduce the size of the problem. Nevertheless, we estimate we will need more than 101,000 dentists by 1965 to maintain present day standards of health.

## TWO HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES INVITED TO ANNUAL SESSION

A.D.A. Certificates of Superior Achievement and invitations to exhibit at the Centennial Session of the Association in September in

New York were presented to two high school sophomores, Mary Sue Wilson, 15 years old, of Cedar Falls, Iowa, for an exhibit on bacterial resistance to antibiotics, and Sheila Marie Most, 14, of Gulfport, Fla., for an exhibit on modern science in dentistry. A.D.A. Certificates of Meritorious Achievement and \$50 gift certificates for scientific books or equipment were awarded to Albert Caesar Simmons, 16, of Americus, Ga., for his exhibit on hydrolysis of starch in saliva, and to Billy Paul Hunt, 16, of Huntington, W. Va., for an exhibit on hypophysectomy and stimulated metabolism. The committee of judges for the exhibits in dental science included Dr. Arthur W. Easton, of Norway, Me., A.D.A. trustee, chairman; Dr. Seymour J. Kreshover, associate director of the National Institute for Dental Research, Bethesda, Md.; Dr. George C. Paffenbarger, chief of the A.D.A. research staff at the National Bureau of Standards, and Dr. Gilbert P. Smith, of New York, dean of the School of Dental and Oral Surgery, Columbia University.

## 'A.M.A. JOURNAL' PAYS TRIBUTE EDITORIALY TO A.D.A. CENTENNIAL

A lengthy editorial paying tribute to the Centennial Year of the A.D.A. appears in the current (May 9) issue of The Journal of the American Medical Association. Entitled "A Century of Dental Progress," the editorial noted that the anniversary "signifies a century of achievement and progress in the fields of dental education, dental science and professional responsibility" and asserted that "American dentistry has achieved a maturity that has given it world leadership." Describing the Association's role in developments in education, research and public health, the editorial concludes: "Thus it is apparent that the American Dental Association has a long distinguished record of public service and it can face the future with reasonable expectancy of significant improvements in the nation's dental health. The Journal of the American Medical Association extends centennial birthday greetings and best wishes for a second century of dedication to the welfare of the American people."