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## ADA News Letter - 03/31/1961

American Dental Association

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## PROGRAM SET FOR DENTAL HEALTH MEET

(see page 3)

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### RADIOACTIVITY RESEARCH FURTHER CONFIRMS WATER FLUORIDATION'S SAFETY

Research employing radioactive fluoride has provided further evidence attesting to the safety of water fluoridation, a House Subcommittee was told March 27 by Dr. Wallace D. Armstrong of the University of Minnesota Medical School. Dr. Armstrong testified that his studies demonstrate the "rapid and effective" excretion of fluoride in the urine. In other parts of his testimony, presented on behalf of the ADA, Dr. Armstrong said the application of radioisotopes in dental research:

--Has revealed "unexpected biochemical and physiological processes in intact, mature teeth" which will "undoubtedly contribute to our ultimate understanding of such dental diseases as caries (decay) and dental erosion."

--Will lead to the development of new, different and, hopefully, better kinds of fillings for caries.

Dr. Armstrong told the House Subcommittee on Research and Development of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy that his research indicates how the body regulates the content of fluoride in the blood and the body fluids. He said that in his studies an adult took 1.0 milligram of fluoride identified by the presence of some of the radioactive form. The fluoride, he explained, was absorbed from the intestine, entered the blood and was excreted into the urine. During the course of Dr. Armstrong's experiments, the concentrations of the radiofluoride in samples of blood plasma and urine were determined. These data were used to calculate the magnitude of the renal (kidney) clearance of fluoride. Results showed that the fluoride present in 91 milliliters of blood plasma was excreted into the urine in one minute.

See ARMSTRONG, page 2

### Shailer Peterson Accepts New Post

Dr. Shailer Peterson, ADA assistant secretary for educational affairs and secretary of the Council on Dental Education, has resigned his present post to become dean of the University of Tennessee College of Dentistry. The appointment is effective June 1. Dr. Peterson, who holds a Ph.D. in educational psychology, will be the third non-dentist serving as a dental school dean. The others are Dr. Roy O. Greep, Harvard, and Dr. Leroy R. Boling, Washington University, St. Louis. Before joining the ADA staff in 1946, Dr. Peterson was on the faculties of the Universities of Chicago, Minnesota and Oregon. It was under his direction that the Council on Dental Education established the aptitude testing program in which all the nation's dental schools participate. The school which Dr. Peterson will now head is the third largest in the nation.

### New Capital of Brazil Fluoridates

Brasilia, the new capital city of Brazil, is fluoridating its drinking water. The first three stations, sufficient to furnish water to a population of 200,000 were inaugurated in the fall of 1960.

## CLINICAL TOPICS ANNOUNCED FOR APRIL 26 CLOSED-CIRCUIT TELEVISION PROGRAM

Clinic topics for the nationally televised program of postgraduate education for the dental profession, to be presented Apr. 26, have been announced. Subjects to be discussed are: prosthodontic clinic--management of the edentulous patient; periodontal surgery--the infrabony pocket; operative clinic--high speed instrumentation; endodontic clinic--root resection; and evaluation of audio-analgesia. The operative clinic will originate live from the University of Southern California School of Dentistry while the others, also live, will be presented by the University of Pennsylvania School of Dentistry. Dr. Michael T. Romano, assistant professor of operative dentistry at Pennsylvania, will be moderator for the 90-minute, closed-circuit program, costs for which are being borne by Proctor and Gamble Company. Dr. Lester W. Burket, dental dean at Pennsylvania, will introduce the program and will discuss the dental student recruitment program being cooperatively undertaken by the American Association of Dental Schools and the ADA. Response from dentists thus far has been such that two of the 36 cities receiving the telecast have reserved additional space to accommodate the expected attendance. It has also been announced that the telecast site in Miami has been changed to the Biscayne Terrace Hotel.

### Civil Defense Conference Slated

The first Regional Dental Civil Defense Conference will take place Apr. 15 at the Statler Hilton Hotel in New York City. Participation in the conference is open to state dental directors and members of constituent society civil defense committees from Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and the District of Columbia. Further information on the Conference can be obtained from Herbert C. Lassiter, secretary of the Council on Federal Dental Services, Central Office.

### Trustees Authorize Grants

At its Mar. 16-19 meeting at the Central Office, the Board of Trustees authorized a grant of \$500 to the American Red Cross to be used in behalf of Cuban refugee dentists as well as a grant of \$1,000 to the Future Scientists of America program. The Future Scientists of America, a subsidiary of the National Science Teachers Association, carry out a program somewhat parallel to the National Science Fair movement. In FSA, however, the students are required to produce a written report rather than an exhibit.

### ... ARMSTRONG (from p. 1)

Dr. Armstrong, who is professor and chairman of the department of physiological chemistry at Minnesota Medical School, also revealed that the body "has an ability to excrete fluoride which is far superior to that for chloride." This is of interest, he explained, because public water supplies are universally treated with chloride for purposes of purification. Referring to fluoridation of community water supplies as "perhaps the most important recent development in the prevention of disease," the witness declared: "Both the benefits and the health safety of water fluoridation have been amply proven mainly by examination of the 'Experiments of Nature.' The dental and general health examinations of persons who live in localities in this and other countries in which the fluoride content of the water is much elevated have clearly shown that optimum concentrations of water fluoride are innocuous to health."

### Fluoridation Required in Ireland

Late in 1960, both Houses of the Irish national legislature approved a bill obliging health authorities to make arrangements for the fluoridation of water supplies. Before the regulation is put into effect, a sampling survey will be made of the incidence of dental caries in children attending full-time day schools in areas affected.

## KEYNOTE THEME AND PROGRAM REVEALED FOR NATIONAL DENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

Surgeon General Luther L. Terry, keynote speaker for the upcoming 12th annual National Dental Health Conference, has announced that the subject of his address will be "The Next Great Areas for Teamwork in National Health." The conference will be held Apr. 26-28 at the Ambassador West Hotel, Chicago. Dr. Rulon W. Openshaw of Los Angeles, Chairman of the Council on Dental Health, has also announced particulars of the Conference program, centering about the theme: "Action Problems in Dental Health -- Preventing Future Problems, Meeting Present Needs." The Conference, Dr. Openshaw said, will relate to recommendations of the Commission on the Survey of Dentistry and will consider such subjects as fluoridation, dental care programs for the chronically ill and aged, incremental care programs for children, dental health education programs and the expanding role of dental auxiliaries to meet future demands for dental care.

### New Business Manager Appointed

Sec. Harold Hillenbrand has announced appointment of Donald H. Rowcliffe, Jr., as ADA business manager, the position formerly held by John E. Rush, who resigned earlier this year. Rowcliffe comes to the ADA from the Illinois Agricultural Association and affiliated companies where he was assistant general controller. A Certified Public Accountant, Rowcliffe's background includes World War II service as a navy aviator, as well as stints as lecturer in accounting at Northwestern University and accounting instructor at Aurora (Ill.) College. He, his wife Frances and their two children presently reside in Aurora.

### Relief Fund Edges Closer to Goal

As of Mar. 15, the 1960-61 Relief Fund was within 2.1 per cent of its \$125,000 goal. Total contributions at that time were \$122,406.55. Twenty-five constituent societies as well as the Public Health Service have oversubscribed their individual goals. Leader is Tennessee, which has contributed \$4,809 or 285 per cent of its quota.

### NIDR Hosts Genetics Conference

Dentists and geneticists from four nations will meet in Washington, D.C., Apr. 3-5 for a symposium on genetics related to dental health. The three-day meeting is sponsored by the ADA and supported by a grant from the National Institute of Dental Research, where the sessions will be held.

### Ex-Senator Murray of Montana Dies

Former Senator James E. Murray of Montana, long-time friend of dentistry and honorary ADA member, died Mar. 24 in Butte, Mont. He was 84. A Democratic power during his 26 years as a U.S. senator, Murray was instrumental in guiding much dental legislation through Congress. He led the movement in World War II to obtain for dental officers equal status to medical officers. He introduced the first bill to establish the National Institute for Dental Research and was a leader in having the Congress appropriate funds for NIDR's own building, which will be dedicated next month. Born in Canada, Murray earned bachelor, master and doctor of law degrees from New York University Law School and, in 1901, began a law practice in Butte which he maintained until his death. At his retirement from the Senate in January of this year, his tenure was exceeded by only three persons. A widower, Murray leaves behind him five sons.

### Forrest Becomes Pittsburgh Dean

Dr. Edward J. Forrest, associate dean of the University of Illinois College of Dentistry, has been appointed dean of the University of Pittsburgh School of Dentistry. His appointment will be effective September 1, 1961. Dr. Forrest, who has been at Illinois since 1956, is also the current director of postgraduate education and professor of orthodontics. Dr. Forrest's brother is dental dean at St. Louis U.

## CANADIAN GOVERNMENTAL GROUP STRONGLY URGES ADOPTION OF FLUORIDATION

One of the strongest governmental reports ever written on fluoridation has been submitted to the Ontario, Canada, legislature. Terming fluoridation safe, effective, legal and economic, the report urged that legislation be enacted empowering municipalities to introduce fluoridation of the water supplies through by-law, without necessity of a referendum. Some quotes from the lengthy report:

"We hold the firm opinion that the fluoridation of municipal water supplies by the authority of appropriate legislation would not be a denial of any fundamental or basic civil right....

"We are convinced that a concentration of 1 ppm of fluoride in drinking water is eminently safe over a very wide range of water intake....There are no ill effects....

"We are strongly of the opinion that this issue should not be decided at the local level by referendum.... It is the type of issue which, in our opinion, municipal councils should take the responsibility of deciding and should not be required to take a vote of their inhabitants before acting...."

The committee was appointed in March, 1959. Acting as chairman was K. G. Morden, Justice of the court of appeals of the Supreme Court of Ontario. In addition to reports from dental and medical scientists, pharmacologists and nutrition experts, the committee received 91 briefs and held open hearings. The exhaustive study was completed in December, 1960 when preparation of the 177-page written report began.

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### Complete Survey Report Now Available

The final report of the Commission on the Survey of Dentistry in the United States is now available. The previously issued Summary Report was based upon the detailed findings and recommendations published for the first time in this 600-page volume. Copies may be purchased, at \$10 each, from the American Council on Education, 1785 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

### Peyton, Dale Receive IADR Awards

At least week's annual session of the International Association for Dental Research, the Edward H. Hatton Award and the Wilmer Souder Award were bestowed on Dr. Jack G. Dale and Dr. Floyd A. Peyton respectively. Dr. Dale, a research fellow at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine and the Forsyth Dental Infirmary for Children, reported on studies of factors affecting bone resorption and on a new method of determining resorption rates. The Hatton award is given annually for the best original research report by a novice investigator. Dr. Floyd A. Peyton of the University of Michigan was given the Souder award in recognition of his "pioneering work and continuous service over many years of developing dental materials." Dr. Peyton is presently in Egypt on assignment with the U.S. Information Agency. New officers for the IADR were also elected at the Boston session. They are: James A. English, president; Seymour J. Kreshover, president-elect; Dan Y. Burrill, vice-president; Joseph C. Muhler, secretary-treasurer; Frank J. Orland, editor, and Clifton O. Dummett and Josse De Wever, councillors at large.

### 'Bootlegger' Story Goes to 900 Papers

An article on nation-wide dental 'bootlegging' has been submitted for possible use to 900 daily newspapers across the nation. The feature, based on material prepared by the ADA Bureau of Public Information, was released by the King Feature Syndicate. Discussing the irreparable damage done by illicit operators, the article points out that "fitting a dental appliance requires, above all, medical skill and knowledge. Your oral health, plus your physical and emotional well-being, is at stake."