

ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

By J. H. "JACK" RAYMOND,
Secretary

The fifth annual convention of the Association ended Monday, October 13th, with the installation of Sanitarian A. Harry Bliss, of Riverside, California, Camp Inspector for the California Department of Public Health, as President, succeeding Cliff Baughman, Chief Sanitarian, Kern County Health Department, Bakersfield, California.

The convention saw for the first time in the Association's history a hotly contested fight for its Presidency, which from a standpoint of interest on the part of the delegates augurs well for the future of the Association as a whole.

From the first business session to the convention close the delegates were constantly reminded of the seriousness of the times in which we are living and of the place of the Sanitarian therein. Dr. Herbert F. True, M. D., Health Officer of Sacramento, appeared before us in greeting to our delegates in the uniform of a Captain, Sanitary Corps, California State Guard. Sanitarians Porter, Rablin and others of the Sacramento Health Department also were in uniform, Porter as First Lieutenant, Rablin as Second Lieutenant. During the sessions we were pleased to hear an interesting talk by Sanitarian Hesper N. MacMillen, formerly of Los Angeles County Health Department, now First Lieutenant, Sanitary Corps, Regular Army, assigned to the San Francisco Port Area.

Sanitarian Edward M. Digneo of Santa Fe, New Mexico, Health Department, member of the Board of Directors, was unable to attend the Convention, as he is now Ensign Digneo with the U. S. Navy in Florida. While the convention offered much in the way of opportunity for the renewal of old friendships, and some interesting papers from excellent speakers, there was ever present the undercurrent of apprehension of the inability to maintain the gains in public health and housing in the past few years and still retain municipal and state

control, in view of the Federal usurpation of ordinary local and State functions in these vital subjects. Quite naturally this encroachment merits much more than can be written here, and it may well be the basis for a leading article in the near future. It nevertheless behooves the Sanitarian to look to the particular field in which he serves and its maintenance as a necessarily vital function in the life of his community and State. Many Health Departments report this or that activity, formerly their concern, now being relegated to some Federal Bureau.

And with those spare remarks, as more intimate news of the convention will appear elsewhere, the one element our Association needs, as exemplified by the Convention, is similar to that of the Nation at this time, and that is unity in effort for the task ahead. In our five years of growth, we have succeeded in becoming known throughout the Nation; we have started a movement toward the goals described in our Preamble to our Constitution; our voice "The Sanitarian" is read by those interested in or engaged in the field of Public Health in every state of the Union; membership in our association is growing in spite of our thus far feeble effort. This should be a year of growth. The time is NOW. The job is OURS and with the help of all Sanitarians, our sixth convention will find us well on the road to our new President's goal which he set for himself and his officers: "A Section in every State in the Union." Let's help put it over.

"Have I done anything for society? I have then done more for myself. Let that question and truth be always present to thy mind, and work without cessation."—Simms

Following the line of least resistance is what makes men and rivers crooked.—Blemis Blotter.

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