

NEWS ITEMS FOR SANITARIANS

Highlights of the 7th Annual Convention

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I have just returned from our convention in San Francisco and have had some time to consider talks and remarks made by the principal speakers.

Doctor J. C. Geiger, San Francisco City and County Health Officer, in his remarks of welcome stressed several points of interest to sanitarians. He credited sanitarians with being the first line of defense in the public health problem. Another point was his advocacy and support of In-Service-Training, which was enlarged upon by Mr. Crowley, his Chief Sanitary Inspector, who stated that all San Francisco inspectors were to be trained in all phases of inspection work. Doctor Geiger further stated that San Francisco, through ordinance, requires all milk to be pasteurized. He advocates a State standardization of the system of garbage disposal on dumps.

When it became apparent that three speakers were given almost the same topic dealing with the standards for sanitarians, my first reaction was one of condemnation of the program committee, but now after digestion of the excellent talks by the noted authorities on public health, I believe I see the light and reason for the committee assigning the same topic to such eminent speakers as Doctor William P. Sheppard, Chairman of Committee on Professional Education, American Public Health Association; Doctor Walter T. Brown of the University of California; and Doctor W. L. Halverson, Director of the California State Department of Public Health. It was quite interesting to note that all three speakers were very much in accord on standards for sanitarians.

Highlights from Doctor Sheppard's talk were as follows: He accused the



WM. L. NUNES, R.S.
 President
 N.A.S.

J. C. GEIGER, M.D.
 City-County Health Officer
 San Francisco

N. A. S. of being too modest in its claim for recognition because he said that he felt we have "arrived," and then proceeded to point out why, stating that . . . "The burden of public health rests on the shoulders of the sanitarian" . . . "Ninety per cent of all full-time public health personnel are laymen" . . . "New Jersey now licenses sanitary inspectors to practice" . . . Doctor Sheppard suggested that in order to gain our goal, that we be alert to rapid changing conditions and raise our standards by the merit system, thereby earning our recognition rather than demanding the same, that credit should be given to practical experience which is on a par with academic education and stay clear of unions because they do not lead to the path of professionalization.

Doctor Brown stressed the following points:

1. Sanitarians perform functions of public health that no one else performs;

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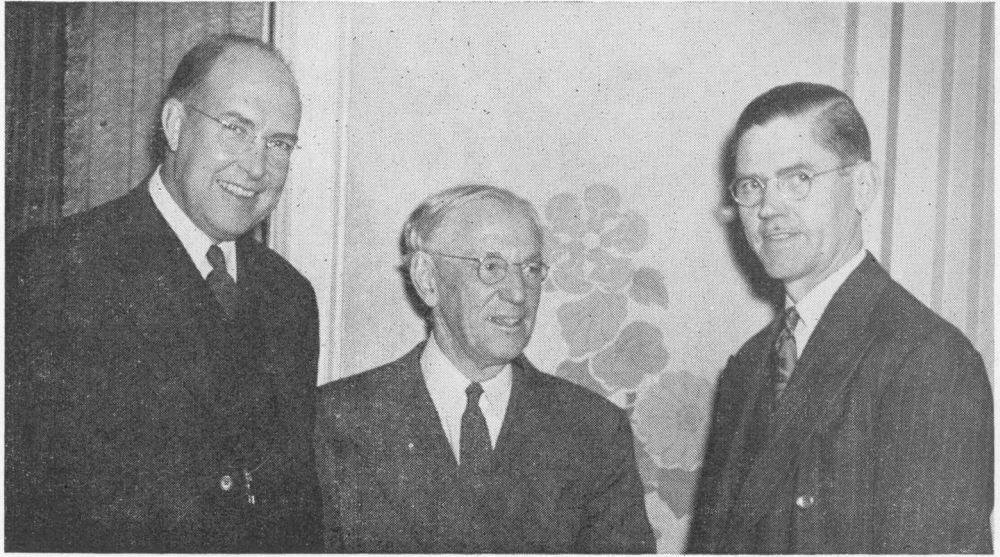
2. Sanitarians must maintain good interdepartmental relationship;
3. Sanitarians must maintain good public relationship;
4. Sanitarians are the connecting link between the people and the health department;
5. Hasten standardization by meeting the present emergency needs in the field, thus gaining accumulated credits; and
6. Set up standards to meet entrance requirements to a university.

In way of support to these points, Doctor Brown stated that sanitarians in England and Canada had demonstrated their qualifications, thereby receiving tenure and a decent salary.

Doctor Halverson stressed the definition given Sanitarians by Doctor H. W. Lundy which was printed in our official magazine, saying that in his opinion this definition summed up the whole story on what is a sanitarian. He gave us credit for the establishment of schools on sanitation and In-Service Training used by many health departments. In citing the need of sanitary inspection service, he referred to the many insanitary conditions that existed before and during the infancy stage of public health work, pointing out that while all these conditions have not been corrected, much progress has been made and the life span has been increased. His closing remarks were that the sanitarian's work had just begun.

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Dr. William P. Sheppard, Dr. Walter T. Brown, Dr. Wilton L. Halverson

Out of State Guests

Out of state guests attending the 7th Annual meeting were: Wm. P. Cortez, District Sanitarian of Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Carl R. Jensen, District Sanitarian of Las Vegas, New Mexico.

They are interested in forming a section of the National Association of Sanitarians in New Mexico and were collecting information to report back to their fellow sanitarians.

After hearing Dr. William P. Sheppard, Chairman of committee on Professional Education, American Public Health Association, and Dr. Walter T. Brown, Professor of Public Health University of California, a Past President of American Public Health Association, and Dr. Wilton L. Halverson, Director of Public Health, State of California, praising the organization for the constructive work it had accomplished and telling us that the Sanitarians have been too modest—that now is the time ALL SANITARIANS throughout the entire nation should get together and present to the public an educational program that will display our true value to the community, I am sure the Sanitarians of New Mexico will soon be taking an active part in the organization.

How many times have you heard the expression, "Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their party"? Well, now is the time for ALL Sanitarians to bind themselves together and work for recognition and better salaries, and what better way can we do it than by educating the public. We should have a Section of The National Association of Sanitarians in every state. Fellow Sanitarians, it's up to you. Get busy!

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