

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 11TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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Associate Editor

THE 11th Annual Conference of the National Association of Sanitarians met in Salt Lake City on September 15, 16 and 17, unanimously determined to improve technical standards of sanitation inspection and improve their relations with the public which they serve.

Sanitarians have "missed the boat" in the field of public relations, so said Walter F. Snyder, Ann Arbor, Michigan, Executive Director of Research of the National Sanitation Foundation. He went on to say that "Whether you are running for public office or selling a bill of goods, public opinion is the item necessary for success," and advocated that the association work out an effective program of public relations as an aid in gaining adequate appropriations and increased cooperation.

Also stressing the value of successful public relations was H. F. Kretchman, Managing Editor of the Salt Lake Telegram, who told the sanitarians they "must be crusaders who fight for that which they know is right." The public loves a fighter he assured them.

Dr. James Z. Davis, Salt Lake City Health Commissioner told the sanitarians that although public health practice in America is well advanced compared with other countries, the average community uses only 20% of the knowledge and techniques available in this field. He urged that sanitarians take steps to disseminate more of the invaluable information that we now possess.

Curriculum for Bachelor of Science degree in sanitation was the subject of a most interesting talk by W. S. Mangold, Professor of Public Health, University of California. Five schools now offer bachelor degrees for non-engineering sanitarians; Rutgers, Massachusetts State College, Oklahoma, Indiana and California. Three states have a qualifying test as prerequisite to employment; New Jersey, California and New York.

Dr. George Knowlton, Professor of Entomology, Utah State Agricultural College, said that fast transportation and return of many veterans harboring malaria proved a serious problem, when

he discussed Malariology and Mosquito Control.

In his discussion, "Bacterial Pollution of Ground Water Supplies," H. E. Thomas, District Geologist, U. S. Geological Survey said properly developed ground water supplies are of such purity that chlorination usually is unnecessary. He quoted the U. S. Public Health Service recommendation that wells be not less than 50 feet deep.

The charming Mrs. Ruth Nisbet, Sanitarian for a Denver confectionery chain gave the boys something to think about when she said that most restaurant operators desired to operate a clean establishment and the reason why they were not clean was the ineffectiveness of the sanitarian in his work. Wrap that one up boys.

Cites Virus Carrier: Although the evidence against the filth fly as a carrier of the poliomyelitis virus is still circumstantial, good precautions are to wash raw fruit with soap and water before it is eaten, require children to wash hands thoroughly before eating, and keep them away from areas in which sewerage is exposed, said Dr. L. P. Gebhardt, Professor of Bacteriology, University of Utah Medical School.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors, presided over by Ellis R. Schelds of Salt Lake City, President of the Association, six new sections were admitted to membership. They are Arizona, the Rocky Mountain Section (Wyoming, Colorado and Montana) the Iowa Section, Louisiana, Western Missouri and Georgia.

A committee was appointed to take steps necessary to internationalize the organization; Canada already has applied for membership.

In his annual report Mr. Shields said the association during the past year has experienced an expansion exceeding our fondest hopes. He pointed out that in much of their work sanitarians have to forget the city and state boundaries because of the extensiveness of their problems.

Members of the California delegation who were seeking the 1949 convention for Los Angeles made their appearance wearing large sombreros.

Health Departments were built around the visions of sanitarians, so

spoke Dr. W. W. Bigelow, acting State Health Commissioner.

W. W. Smith, Professor of Bacteriology, Utah State Agricultural College told the delegates that in regions where the soil has tetanous, people eat enough tetanous germs every day to kill them if the germs were typhoid. Tetanous, he said, must go in through the skin and typhoid through the mouth.

Relationship of sanitarians and sanitary engineers was the subject of an interesting talk by Lynn M. Thatcher, Utah State Sanitary Engineer. Each has his place and the person best qualified to do the job should be the one to perform the task. Even as the practicing physician and the surgeon are best qualified in their respective fields.

Mr. Y. S. Lee of Hawaii who flew from Honolulu to Salt Lake City reported sanitation problems in Hawaii are the same as those of the mainland, as the standards of living in the islands are patterned after American standards. The great population increase in Honolulu since the war and acute housing shortage has made control of some sanitary conditions very difficult.

Sidelights of the Conference

Our host provided entertainment for the ladies in a grand way. A tour of the beautiful city was arranged for all the delegates.

The following day many members were taken to the great open pit mine of the Utah Copper Company, and Salt Air.

Mr. Shields did a magnificent job of presiding at the conference. Personification of the strength of the organization and the dignity of the position he held. He was presented with a gold tie clasp, shield of the association.

The floor show at the banquet informed the guests that in Utah they do "that which comes naturally." A very clever skit.

Lee of Honolulu presented the ladies at the head table with orchid leis from the islands. By custom, he said, "the giver gets a kiss." Mr. Mondala said that at the next meeting he would do the presenting of the leis.

John Drake of Washington made a very impressive extemporaneous presentation of the solid aluminum gavel to the new president, Mr. Mondala.

When your heart and soul overflows with ambition for the organization like Newell Pickett's does, and he sounds off he gives you something to think about. Keep it up Pickett.

Some of the boys were introduced to chop sticks. They managed one meal but don't believe they will try it again.

Most of the delegates had flattering remarks to make about the pulchritude of the Utah ladies.

Lily Tulip Cup was present and as usual provided an enjoyable hour each day.

Nottingham of California, who believes that which man has and shares is returned ten-fold, but that which he shares not is lost, can be depended on to give color to any gathering.

There was drama of high order at the banquet when Mr. Davis presented Mr. Lee of Honolulu with a gavel. Lee made many friends at the meeting, and all of us are hoping that we will meet again in Portland.

The Washington Section did a little subtle advertising of their state at the conference. At Monday luncheon, fresh Puget Sound salmon was served. The chef of the New House Hotel really did a fine job of cooking the salmon. Also at this luncheon all the delegates and their wives were given red rosebud boutenniers. At the banquet on Tuesday, a Washington delicious apple was placed at each plate. At the Wednesday luncheon, Peach Melba was served; and in the Washington headquarters open house was held each evening and smoked oysters and all the "fixings" were served, all of the above was supplied by the industry whom we served.

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