

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

R. D. KALLING, R.S.
President, N.A.S.

In an aura of progress and prosperity, the National Association of Sanitarians completed a very successful 24th Annual Educational Conference at the Jack Tar Hotel in San Francisco, California.

Major General Oliver K. Niess, Surgeon General, United States Air Force, set the stage for the General Conference with his address on "Air Force Medicine in the Space Age" and the accompanying film "Beyond the Gravisphere." This keynote speech with its reference to "breakthroughs" in various technologies, brought home the fact that "Environmental Health—1960—The Sanitarians Future in Public Health," must progress—yet keep the position in which we are already established.



R. D. KALLING, R.S.

Of great interest to all sanitarians was his remark, "I have established within our new Aerospace Medical Division responsibility for acquiring the knowledge to cope with the new medical problems. I have also asked my staff to explore the possibility of establishing an officer category of "Sanitarian" in the Medical Service Corps. They will be utilized within the framework of the Aerospace Medi-

cine function of the U.S.A.F. Medical Service." This is certainly a great stride forward for the sanitarian. We hope that the other Defense services will do likewise.

The succeeding speakers and panelists highlighted specific problems in the technology and administration of sanitation and emphasized our need for progress. For the first time the papers given at the conference were available on the last day.

Representatives of the Armed Services, Canada, West Indies, South America and thirty states were included in the more than 500 registrants for the conference.

The meetings of the old and new boards of directors conducted business with dispatch and forethought concerning the future of the sanitarian and NAS. The treasury is in the black—visits by the Executive Secretary have increased the number of affiliates and individual members—revisions are contemplated for the Manual for the Annual Educational Conference—procurement bulletins for the undergraduate into the field of sanitation in general and hospital sanitation in particular are being prepared and will be printed—an investigation is to be made into an insurance program for the members of the association but will be available on an individual basis. Talk about an active committee to investigate a commemorative stamp for sanitarians or sanitation resulted in a special committee for this project. It was reported that Massachusetts has developed and makes available to registered sanitarians a metal license plate tag that has the insignia of the sanitarian.

This year the appointments made on all Standing Committees were made available on Wednesday at the conference. Plans to do this were initiated last March by the writer and recommendations made

by the Presidents of state affiliates were used in making the appointments. Because of the early announcement of committee membership many of the committees held meetings in order to advance their work for the coming year.

Our committee structure this year is divided into three groups: *Special Duties*, *Professional* and *Operations* and directed by your President; William G. Walter, 1st Vice-President, and John Nordin, 2nd Vice-President. It is felt that this will give us greater control over committee work and produce better reports as well as to delegate responsibility.

This year marked the establishment of a Research Committee headed by Harry Steigman, Director, Division of Sanitation, Pennsylvania Department of Health, 1028 Health and Welfare Building, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. We hope to lay the ground work this year and start the committee work by next year. Interested members wishing to serve on this committee should contact Harry Steigman.

At the general business meeting the slate of officers was elected as presented by the nominations committee:

Rod Kalling, Wisconsin, President

V. Harry Adrounie, Washington, D. C.,
President-elect

John Nordin, Washington State, 2nd
Vice-President

William G. Walter, Ph.D., Montana, 1st
Vice-President

Mel Wilkey, Colorado, Treasurer

Fred Cooper, California, Vice-Presi-
dent, Region 1

Fred Bass, Louisiana, Vice-President,
Region 5

A. C. Mullins, Alabama, Vice-President,
Region 6

Francis Goldsmith, Maryland, Vice-
President, Region 7

M. M. Miller, Colorado, Department
of Registration

W. W. Sampson, Ph.D., California, De-
partment of Registration

The suggested revisions for the Bylaws were referred back to committee at the recommendation of the board of directors. Continued work will be done with other related organizations to affect consolidation. Scholarships were not awarded

the past year because of a lack of applications. Cincinnati, Ohio, was selected as the site for the 1962 (26th) Annual Educational Conference and the new affiliate—Ohio—will be the host state. St. Louis is, of course, the site for the 1961 session. Hawaii presented brochures extolling that state for the 1963 site and after more study will present its bid next year.

At the delightful banquet and entertainment at the Jack Tar Hotel on Thursday, the writer, Rod Kalling, was installed as president by retiring president Walt Kimsey.

A. Harry Bliss, Professor of Preventative Medicine in the School of Public Health at U.C.L.A., was awarded the WALTER MANGOLD AWARD. This was especially fitting because of the long working association between Harry Bliss and Walter Mangold—and because the award was presented in the “backyard” of Walter Mangold, for whom the award is named. A large number of excellent bids for the award were received by the committee.

Of more than passing interest was the report on the hospital ship “PROJECT HOPE”. This reconditioned ship is a traveling medical school designed to visit other countries for the purpose of training local doctors in latest hospital techniques. A SANITARIAN will be the historian on the ship and will be chosen as one of the traveling medical team.

During a special evening session, “THE SANITARIAN’S FUTURE IN PUBLIC HEALTH” was the subject of a panel discussion and general comments from the floor. These comments led generally to the conclusion that we, as sanitarians, will create our own future.

The accommodations at the Jack Tar Hotel were exceptionally fine for the 38 exhibitors at the conference. The locations of the booths were right at the door of the Conference room on the Mezzanine of the hotel and this provided easy and ready access to the booths. Other groups meeting at the hotel were attracted by the booths and inquiries have been received for exhibition space at St. Louis in 1961.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 24th EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

By JOSEPH O'BRIEN, *Program Chairman*

The 24th Annual Educational Conference of the National Association of Sanitarians was very successful. It was held in the new Jack Tar Hotel, with an excellent room for the general sessions and fine accommodations for the exhibit booths.

The conference was also a financial success, with advertising, exhibits and registration, all equal to, or surpassing previous conferences.

For entertainment, there was a fine tour of San Francisco's gay night life on Thursday, July 19, and on the following evening a visit to the City's famous China Town. An interesting and diversified program was available for the women throughout the conference.

The Educational Program was diversified, presenting many excellent papers and panel discussions. The keynote speech, opening the conference was given by Dr. Oliver K. Niess, Surgeon General of the United States Air Force. He described the current and future medical and environmental health aspects of the United States Air Force. Of particular interest to the Sanitarians was a statement made by Surgeon General Niess that he hopes to have sanitarians commissioned in the Air Force in the future.

The Honorable Byron Rumford, Chairman of The Public Health Committee in the California State Legislature, presented a most interesting talk titled "Legislation and Public Health". He cited the multitude of problems involved in passing laws and legislation and pointed out that public health is only one of many agencies and groups that are competing for passage of laws. He was cognizant of the importance of public health and provided in his address valuable information on how to obtain more favorable action with legislative bodies.

The panel discussion on "The Use of Watersheds for Recreational Areas", covered a topic that will be of increasing importance to Environmental Health personnel in the future. The general consensus of the panel members was that watersheds will be utilized much more in the future for recreational areas. Therefore, Public Health personnel will have an increasing responsibility to inform the public about the necessity for having a good water supply and the need to provide adequate treatment for water and for recreation.

Mr. Frank Gohr, of the University of California presented a paper to start the second morning of the conference on "Hospital Sanitation". His talk covered the multitude of environmental health problems associated with hospitals, e.g.; food preparation, plumbing, ventilation and the control of staphylococcal organisms.

The second panel discussion at the conference was on the "Qualitative Measurement of Sanitation Activities." Mr. Sam Reed of the Washington State Health Dept. first discussed this subject for 40 minutes. In his excellent analysis of the topic he defined evaluation and emphasized the necessity for the proper design of program objectives as a part of the evaluation procedure. He pointed out that sanitarians are not doing enough on proper evaluation, in spite of numerous talks on the subject at meetings of sanitarians, as well as in journals. He stressed the importance of evaluation because the most effective aspect of program administration and operation is sound planning. This in turn requires a complete and careful assessment of need, services and many other factors. Evaluation and sound planning involve many things, some of them being ethics, necessity, professionalism, responsibility and personal

peace of mind. He felt that Sanitarians should direct their attention to two major areas for qualitative evaluation:—an evaluation of the educational approach to obtaining our program objectives and an evaluation of the moral responsibility which a sanitarian has, both as a private citizen and as a public official.

After Mr. Reed's presentation, the panel discussed how sanitarians would be more effective in evaluation of their programs. The panel agreed that more attention should be given to evaluation.

In the afternoon of the second day, Dr. Andie Knutson of the Univ. of California, used a very effective demonstration to illustrate the complexity of communications and perception. He explained how words, phrases and symbols have different meanings to individuals. Sometimes even diametrically opposite.

Two papers were presented on the cleanliness of utensils. One of the papers presented by Mr. Peter Stevenson of the Denver Health Department, described a procedure developed by them in the past two years to evaluate the effectiveness of dishwashing operations. This evaluation procedure included the checking of water temperature and water pressure in dishwashing machines. The second paper given by Mr. Edward Armbruster, of the Univ. of Michigan explained the use of a dye for determining the cleanliness of dishes and utensils. This dye (Saffronin- 0) is inexpensive, is easy to use and washes off quite easily. This test should be of considerable assistance to sanitarians.

The second afternoon session was concluded by Mr. Jerrold Michael, who talked about the training of Swimming Pool Personnel. He stressed the importance of having properly trained personnel operating swimming pools and informed the sanitarians of several different types of training aids that have been developed recently to train these operators.

The final days sessions started with two papers on emergency and disaster sanitation. Messers Charles Wright and Jerrold Michael of the Public Health Service, advocated that emergency sanitation activities should be a part of the regular plan of any environmental health program.

Mr. Emil Chanlett of the University of North Carolina presented an excellent and thought provoking discussion on the future of the sanitarian, the sanitary engineer in environmental health. His speech touched upon education of environmental health personnel, the roles of the various professional associations in the field of environmental health and the responsibilities of environmental health personnel in the future.

The final afternoon program covered two relatively new areas of environmental health:—radioactivity and air pollution. Dr. Simon Kinsman, by using materials that were contaminated with radioactive material, demonstrated the penetration of radioactive rays in food, utensils and other materials.

A panel composed of three experts on air pollution concluded the program. These men explained the pollutants in the atmosphere, emanating from vehicles, homes and industry.

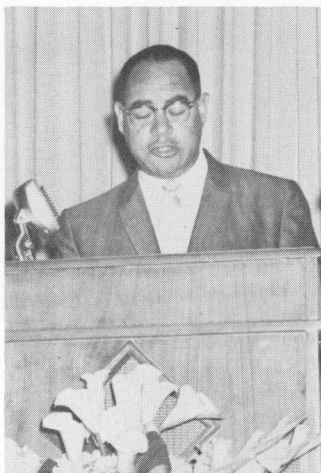
Most of the papers presented during the conference, as well as the panel discussions, will be published in future issues of our publication "The Sanitarian".



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SAN FRANCISCO MEETING



Mayor George Christopher of San Francisco Signing Proclamation of Sanitation Week



MAJOR GENERAL O. K. NIESS, USAF, MC SURGEON GENERAL, USAF

Presented at the 24th Annual Educational Conference, National Association of Sanitarians, San Francisco, California

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I deeply appreciate the honor of addressing your 24th Annual Education Conference. The objectives and programs of your organization and profession are vital to a dynamic, healthy United States. The discipline of public health which you represent is of special interest to me and to Air Force medicine in this aerospace age.

We are living in an interesting and challenging period. Of immediate concern to you as sanitarians are the problems generated by a rapidly expanding population, and the shifting of our citizens from metropolitan to suburban areas. This means there are the very real problems of potable water, proper disposal of industrial and domestic sewage, air pollution, and monitoring levels of radiation.

The solution of these king-sized problems will be accomplished by the complete cooperation of various government and civilian organizations concerned with the health of the people. Certainly their resolution will require the application of your best professional know-how and your capability as diplomats.

The stature of the sanitarian has grown apace with public recognition of our growing problems in public health. This is evidenced by the support given you by the American Public Health Association and other official agencies.

In developing your future programs, you should not be bound by tradition. There is a dire need for new skills and new ways of applying our knowledge to cope with the problems of today and tomorrow.

Not only are your communities looking to you for solutions but we in Aerospace Medicine are increasingly looking for assistance in our programs. The efficiency

and competency with which you meet these new problems will determine the amount of professional recognition for the sanitarian in the years ahead.

In the past decade there has been an explosive break-through in technology and aerospace research. This has brought us to the threshold of the exploration of true space. The military significance of space penetration by man is a matter of grave concern to all of us, particularly those who have a specific responsibility for our national security. It is certainly our national desire that the exploration of space will be accomplished for peaceful purposes for the benefit of all mankind.

The military concern, however, lies in the fact that it may prove possible for a nation, through the development of a military capability in space, to force its wishes upon any or all nations on the earth beneath. If this is indeed possible, then the United States and its allies of the free world are compelled to achieve this capability at the earliest possible moment. For in the last fifteen years, since the end of World War II, our principal deterrent to Communist aggression has been dominant air-power. In the years ahead, it will become aerospace power.

The space age we are entering is an upward and outward extension of the Air Age and will be controlled by the military principle of deterrence. If we maintain a strong deterrent to aggression, we enhance the possibility that one day it will be possible to settle international differences through reason instead of force.

In the short span of time since man first flew, there has been an almost geometric progression to higher and faster flight. For example, the plane first pur-

chased by the Army Signal Corps from the Wright Brothers flew at 42 miles per hour at tree-top altitude. Today's manned research vehicle—the X-15—is progressing in its tests, penetrating near space at 100,000 feet plus, at speeds in excess of 2500 miles per hour. Tomorrow, Quo Vadis?

Paralleling these advances in flight, and in some cases preceding them, have been many medical studies enabling man to overcome the hostile environment encountered in flight.

Our aerospace research has been concerned with problems of motion and acceleration, radiation, extreme ranges of temperature, and the psychological impact upon man when confined within a space vehicle.

The benefit of this research to general medical practice has been twofold: It is increasing our knowledge of the natural physical environment on earth, and it is influencing the development of medical instrumentation, and methods used in diagnosis, observation and therapy.

The environmental factor of acceleration and gravity has long been a concern of airmen, and with the coming of space flights we are faced with still higher and longer lasting "G" values during launch and re-entry into the atmosphere.

Physiological studies on centrifuges and rocket-powered sleds have provided the knowledge of how to cope with these dynamic conditions in flight. These studies have been of great value in the analysis of mechanical injuries and protection in traffic accidents here on the earth's surface.

Studies of the psychophysiology of sensory deprivation, isolation, and confinement conducted in conjunction with studies of space-cabin environments should lead to man being better able to face the stresses and strains of his everyday environment. And the instrumentation developed for recording environmental factors in actual rocket flight should lead to better hospital patient care.

It is not inconceivable that patients could be electronically monitored, so to

speak, with miniaturized instruments and be watched from a central recording station many miles away.

We are also concerned with down-to-earth problems. The trip into space begins at the beginning—on the ground. There are many ancillary and supporting endeavors associated with the activities attendant to the launch of a space vehicle. We must be concerned with the public health problems resulting from handling fuels, oxidizers and other toxic materials, safety practices and noise hazards associated with the space vehicle operation.

In anticipating the hazards to health in handling missiles and rockets, I have established within our new Aerospace Medicine Division responsibility for acquiring the knowledge to cope with the new medical problems. I have also asked my staff to explore the possibility of establishing an officer category of "Sanitarian" in the Medical Service Corps. They will be utilized within the framework of the Aerospace Medicine function of the USAF Medical Service.

We have drawn upon industry to obtain the benefits of their experience and knowledge in research to safely cope with problems connected with space vehicle operations. We have adopted for our use many of the industry-developed techniques in this field.

Never before has Public Health and Medicine been invited to engage in greater struggle than in this age of space exploration. The establishment of space travel will be difficult and costly, but the rewards in research, advancement in medicine, and public health will be amazing.

Man will find answers to problems that have puzzled him for years. He will be able to expand the range of his knowledge in both public health and medicine, and, undoubtedly, influence the development of new methods and instrumentation in these fields.

And, by building and maintaining a strong aerospace deterrent force, man may find — in space — the means of achieving a just and enduring peace here on earth.