

## 28th ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

*Every year the Annual Educational Conference grows larger in number of persons attending, number of exhibits and importance of the papers presented. No less important is the opportunity for the exchange of ideas between men dedicated to the same profession.*

BY GEORGE R. ZECHMAN

*Chairman, Publicity Committee, 28th AEC*

The Twenty-eighth Annual Educational Conference of NAS, held at the Benjamin Franklin Hotel in Philadelphia the week of June 28, was a huge success in all aspects — educationally, socially, financially, and in numbers attending. The well-attended exhibits also shared in the festive atmosphere in which the conference opened.

Early arrivals Sunday afternoon came in an unprecedented volume, but everything moved well with registration and various preliminary committee meetings winding up in time for evening activities.

More than three hundred persons attended the opening social event at 7:00 p.m. Sunday sponsored by the Pepsi-Cola Company. The greeting old friends, meeting new ones, and discussing last minute details of conference proceedings served as a prologue of things to come.

Monday morning registration continued to overwhelm the desk, while in another area were the lively discussions at a Board of Directors meeting. A mild furor arose when it was learned that Dr. Terry's plane was temporarily grounded in Washington; this at the moment when everything was in readiness for an extensively planned press conference. With the full cooperation of all responsible persons, Dr. Terry arrived only thirty minutes late, the press conference went as planned, and the special guests were escorted to the Board of Di-

rectors luncheon given in honor of Dr. Terry.

Included at the head table were such distinguished guests as Dr. Luther L. Terry, Dr. Charles L. Wilbar, Jr., Dr. Norman R. Ingraham, Dr. John J. Hanlon, Franklin H. Fiske, R. S., and Rev. Marshall L. Shepard, with Francis Goldsmith presiding. Dr. Ingraham presented a special edition of a 250 year history of Philadelphia to Dr. Terry, and Frank Fiske presented Certificates of Honorary Membership in NAS to Dr. Terry and Dr. Hanlon. Fifty-eight specially invited guests attended this luncheon.

The First General Session was called to order by President Francis J. Goldsmith with the reading of a letter of commendation from United States President Lyndon B. Johnson. Dr. John J. Hanlon, chairing the session, introduced Dr. Norman R. Ingraham, representing the City of Philadelphia.

Dr. Ingraham spoke of Philadelphia's historic medical background and the role the city continues to play as a leader in many health fields. He noted that Philadelphia was the first city to provide a treated municipal water supply to its residents, and called attention to Philadelphia's Torresdale Water Treatment Plant, the most modern water treatment facility in the country.

More than five hundred persons then heard Dr. Hanlon introduce the keynote speaker, Dr. Terry. Dr. Terry spoke of



**ABOVE: DR. LUTHER TERRY, SURGEON GENERAL OF THE USPHS (STANDING CENTER), IS HONORED AT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS LUNCHEON BY PRESIDENT FRANCIS GOLDSMITH (AT PODIUM). AT LEFT IS DR. JOHN HANLON. AT FAR RIGHT IS DR. NORMAN INGRAHAM.**

**BELOW: THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS LUNCHEON ON MONDAY NOON. LEFT TO RIGHT, FRANCIS GOLDSMITH, REPRESENTATIVE JOSHUA EILBERG, PENN. GEN. ASSEMBLY, JAMES A. DOYLE, REV. MARSHALL L. SHEPARD, NICHOLAS POHLIT, WALTER SOBOLESKY.**



**DELEGATIONS FROM MICHIGAN, ILLINOIS, LOUISIANA, AND MISSOURI ARE SEEN AT THE BEER PARTY, U.S.A., MONDAY EVENING IN THE CRYSTAL BALLROOM OF THE HOTEL.**



**AT THE MONDAY EVENING BUFFET AND ENTERTAINMENT WERE MR. AND MRS. WALTERS AND SONS (REAR), AND MRS. NICHOLAS POHLIT AND CHILDREN (FOREGROUND).**

the growing concern about problems in environmental health and the role that professional sanitarians will play in the resolutions of these problems. The speed and complexity of change in our modern society presents a special urgency to these problems.

"One does not need to be much of a prophet to predict that these trends will give rise to an increasing array of problems in environmental health. They will place heavy strains on our health resources and challenge our ingenuity to the utmost," Dr. Terry said.

He continued with recollections of our past accomplishments, our present and future objectives, and told of what is being done to formulate new techniques, instruments and approaches in an attempt to control these newer problems.

A brief question and answer period followed the presentation, and then the session was adjourned.

Highlighting the social activities of the week was the Beer Party/USA which was held in the Crystal Ballroom at the Benjamin Franklin Hotel on Monday evening. This extravaganza was sponsored by the United States Brewers Association, Inc., and attracted more than 650 guests. Featuring a sumptuous buffet supper (food cost alone was in excess of \$4800) this affair presented another opportunity for gaiety and good fellowship.

Tuesday's technical session included a paper entitled "A New Curriculum in Environmental Science," presented at Drexel Institute of Technology by P. W. Purdom, Ph.D. James P. Sheehy, Robert

A. Taft Sanitary Engineering Center, spoke on "The Air Pollution Problem — Past, Present and Future", and Carl Moline, M.P.H., of the same center, talked about "The Role of the Sanitarian in Air Pollution Control."

Running concurrently with the Drexel Session was Technical Session 2, held at the headquarters hotel, with Franklin H. Fiske, R.S., presiding. Papers presented here were "Hospital Sanitation" by W. A. Johnston, C.S.I. (c), R.S., MRSH; "The Sanitarian as a Consultant to the Food Industry" by Frank D. Arnold, M.S., R.S.; "A New Rat Control Agent" by David Schlichting, Ph.D., and "The Application of Germicidal Ultra-Violet in Environmental Control" by George G. Ellner.

The Annual Luncheon and Business Meeting of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Sanitarians, held at noon Tuesday, was attended by 97 conferees. Pennsylvania State Representative, Joshua Eilberg addressed the group on "A

Legislator Looks at Professional Registration."

Technical Sessions 3 and 4 ran concurrently at the headquarters hotel on Tuesday afternoon. Session 3 was presided over by John A. Locke, R.S., and was a symposium on "Accident Control — A Public Health Challenge to Sanitarians." Participating were John D. Eckoff, R.S., Dade County Department of Health, Florida; Salvatore Miano, R.S., M.P.H., Philadelphia Department of Health; William J. Holland, Public Health Service, Washington, D.C.

Presiding over Session 4 was Walter J. Sobolesky, R.S., Regional Vice-President of NAS, Region IX. Participating in this session were David B. Peden, R.S., M.P.H., speaking on "The Role of the Sanitarian in a Radiological Health Program"; James A. Doyle, R.S., M.P.H., 1964-65 President of NAS reporting on a "Look At the Rendering Industry"; James C. White, Ph.D., a paper on "A Cost Study of a Comprehensive



OFFICERS, DIGNITARIES AND GUESTS ARE SEEN AT THE HEAD TABLE OF THE ANNUAL BANQUET, 28TH ANNUAL AEC, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HOTEL.



DR. JOSEPH GOLDFARB (CENTER) PRESENTED THE MANGOLD AWARD TO TWO OUTSTANDING MEN IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, H. A. CRENSHAW (LEFT), CHIEF OF SANITARIAN SECTION, PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPT., ST. PETERSBURG, FLA., AND DAVID B. PEDEN (RIGHT), DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, OHIO.

Milk Control Program"; and Jack B. Hatlen, R.S., M.S., "A Study of Disinfection and the Occurrence of Selected Bacteria in Swimming Pool Waters."

All through the day on Tuesday, for the cultural growth of those conferees not in technical sessions, there was a series of guided walking tours of historic Philadelphia. At least 70 persons took advantage of this opportunity, in addition to many other conference attendees who went independently, selecting from the brochure those items of most interest to them personally.

Tuesday evening featured the Sanitar-ians Handicap at the new Liberty Bell Harness Race Track. Two hundred and fifty conferees boarded the special busses for free transportation and admission to the track. Winner of the feature race was "Miss Becky Pick" with J. Mathews driving, establishing a new record for this horse at that distance.

The Annual NAS Business Meeting consumed all available time on Wednes-

day morning, extending beyond the pre-scribed lunch hour.

Wednesday afternoon was scheduled as free time, which lent an opportunity to catch up with those persons enjoying "Family Day in Fairmount Park."

There was an organized bus tour for this excursion, but once more, many found it more to their liking to visit these sites on an independent basis, providing their own transportation.

The Annual NAS Banquet on Wednesday evening provided a full evening of entertainment for 326 conferees. After a gourmet's treat of luscious, braised, top sirloin of beef with all the "fixins," we enjoyed the performances of four outstanding supper club acts in addition to a well staged rendition by one of Philadelphia's famous Mummies' String Bands. Following this, dancing was provided in another room through to the wee hours.

Winning the Mangold Award were two outstanding men in the field of environ-



**ABOVE: PRESENTING THE GAVEL SYMBOLIC OF NAS LEADERSHIP TO THE NEW PRESIDENT IS H. F. HOUGH (RIGHT) OF THE PURE CUP AND CONTAINER INSTITUTE. RECEIVING THE PRESIDENT'S GAVEL AT THE NAS ANNUAL BANQUET IS JIM DOYLE (LEFT).**

**BELOW: FRANK FISKE (LEFT) PRESENTS THE NAS HONORARY MEMBERSHIP TO DR. MEREDITH H. THOMPSON (RIGHT). IN FOREGROUND ARE FRANCIS GOLDSMITH AND MRS. NICHOLAS POHLIT.**



mental health; H. A. Crenshaw, Chief of Sanitarian Section, Pinellas County Health Dept., St. Petersburg, Fla., and David B. Peden, Director of Environmental Health, Montgomery County, Ohio.

An unexpected pleasure experienced by those at the banquet was the formal announcement of the promotion of our out-going President, Francis J. Goldsmith to the position of Senior Sanitation Officer.

Technical Session 5, on Thursday morning, was presided over by James A. Doyle, R.S., President-Elect of NAS. Participating in this session were James P. Sheehy, "Training in Environmental Sciences," Carl C. Kuehn, M.D., "Public Health — The Public — And the Sanitarian"; Charles G. Bueltman, "Every Drop Fit to Drink"; Ivan B. Gluckman, "Urban Renewal: A Panoramic View."

Noon-time found the Ladies Auxiliary in session for their Annual Luncheon Meeting. Mrs. Walter Sobolesky, President, presided. After an informal luncheon, the ladies enjoyed a fashion show entitled "Drama in Dress." Fifty-five ladies attended.

The final educational meeting at the conference, Technical Session 6, was a symposium: "Effective Management of

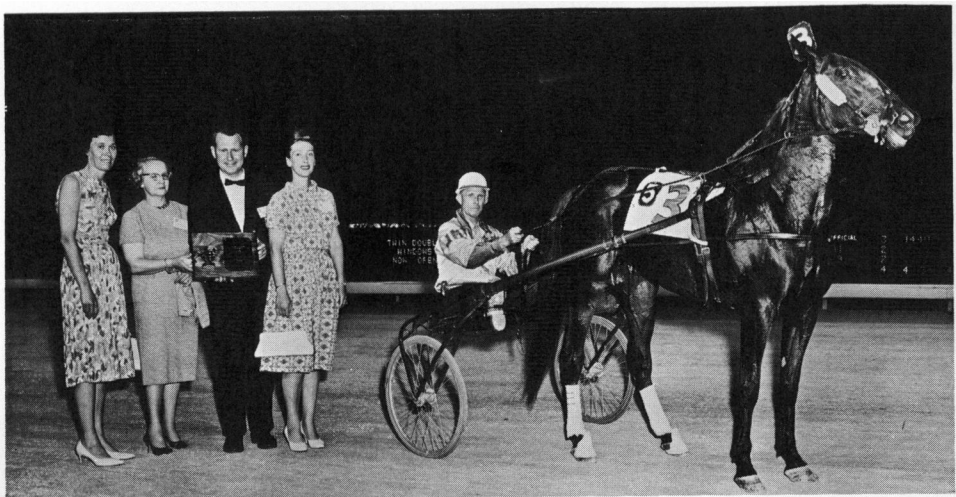
Environmental Health Programs." Presentations at this session included "A Charter for Action", Jerrold M. Michael, R.S., presiding; "In-Service and Extra-Service Training Resources Available Now", Edison E. Newman; "Planned Management of Environmental Health Programs", Robert P. Hayward; "The Effects of Program Planning on a Total State Health Department Program in Environmental Health", Harry Steigman.

A panel then discussed the topic "Is This Applicable to the Sanitarian?" Serving on this panel were James Hensley, Edina, Minnesota; John Frazier, Columbus, Ohio; Irving Schlafman, Washington, D.C.

The grand wind-up of social activities was an evening at the Robin Hood Dell in Fairmount Park. Seventy-five conferees stayed on to enjoy a concert by the renowned Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra.

Friday morning found most of the conferees well along their homeward trail. A few remained for final committee meetings and general wind-up. All of those attending were in full agreement that the conference was one grand success from beginning to end, a just reward for the small group of NAS members who worked so hard during the past year to assure a successful conference.

**THE "SANITARIANS' HANDICAP" AT LIBERTY BELL PARK, TUES., JUNE 30TH, WAS AN OUTSTANDING FEATURE OF THE HOSPITALITY PROGRAM. SHOWN PRESENTING THE AWARD ARE (LEFT TO RIGHT) MRS. MIRIAM SOBOLESKY, LADIES AUXILIARY PRESIDENT, MRS. ESTELLE LAMBRECHTS, OLIVETTE, MO., LADIES AUXILIARY PRES., 1961, AND MR. AND MRS. BERNIE KATZ.**



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 28TH AEC BUSINESS MEETING

A heavy work load for the NAS officers and Board members attending the 28th AEC Business Meeting required the beginning of work on the Saturday before the conference opened in order to allow adequate time for full discussion of all items on the agenda. This was the first time in the history of NAS that such an early start was made.

### Membership Requirements Upgraded

A great deal of discussion at the business meeting centered around the relative merits of enhancing the requirements for membership in NAS. It was generally felt that more advanced membership requirements would stimulate a consolidation of the various sanitarian organizations and at the same time assist the State Health officers in recruiting for higher qualified personnel. This in turn would bring about a better Environmental Health Program for the nation.

Meetings and correspondence with Graves J. Grant, Chief, Section of Sanitarian Services, Louisiana State Board of Health, were instrumental in getting consideration of the proposals.

A resolution was adopted stating that as of January 1, 1966, only those individuals with one year of experience in the field of environmental sanitation and a Bachelors' degree with a minimum of thirty semester units of academic work in the sanitary, physical and biological sciences, and satisfactory completion of an examination would be eligible for membership.

### Liaison Officer

A Resolution was adopted in which the NAS recommended to the Public Health Service that the position of the Sanitarian Liaison Officer be established as a full-time position in the Office of the Surgeon General, and that sufficient funds be made available to carry on liaison activities in and outside the Public Health Service with official and voluntary organizations in order that the contribution of professional sanitarians may be coordinated for the effective advancement of Environmental Health in co-

operation with other professional disciplines concerned.

### Certification of Sanitarians

During the past year, the major effort of the Sanitarian Joint Council has been directed toward the completion of the *Plan for the Establishment of the American Intersociety Board for Certification of Sanitarians*. The plan was reviewed by the Joint Committee many times and the completed plan published in the March-April 1964 issue of the *Journal of Environmental Health*, Vol. 26, No. 5), with an introduction by Larry J. Gordon, one of the NAS representatives on the Council.

In addition to approving the plan, the council recommended that each of the sponsoring organizations assist in getting the plan in operation by granting an interest-free loan of a \$1000.00 from each of the three organizations. This was also approved.

### Journal of Environmental Health

The Publications Committee submitted the following to the Board and was approved:

Accepted the resignation of Frank Justice as Editor of the Journal. His resignation was due to ill health and his work load in his capacity as Chief, Housing Division, City and County of Denver.

Recommended the appointment of Dr. A. Harry Bliss for consideration as Editor.

It was recommended that the NAS employ a professional journalist on a retainer basis to give professional guidance and help that is needed to achieve our goal of a top professional publication.

The following names were submitted to fill the vacancies on the Board of Associate Editors:

1. Dr. William Walter
2. Frank Justice
3. Jerry Michael

### New Functions for the Executive Secretary

1. Propose on a yearly basis objectives



for the Association, which, upon approval of the Board of Directors, will guide operations of the executive office.

2. Direct the maintenance of Association record keeping.
3. Conduct the administrative affairs of the Association within the freedom of operation specified in these functions.
4. Serve as a focal point for collection of income and dispersal of obligations incurred by the Association.
5. Produce an annual report including an accounting of expenses and income, as well as objectives met in each fiscal year.
6. Maintain primary responsibility for management of the official publications of the Association, under guidelines set by the Association regarding content, advertising, and distribution.
7. Direct the operation of an executive office at a site identified by the Board of Directors.
8. Manage the Annual Educational Conference including all aspects of location, content, and operation.
9. Plan for and execute the travel commitments as required to meet the objectives set out for the year and within the framework of available funding support.
10. Provide direction for the successful management of each individual chapter through communication and visit.
11. Stimulate the development of additional chapters in keeping with the Association objectives.
12. Serve as the focal point for contacts with the U. S. Public Health Service, foreign health services, national professional organizations, and voluntary health organizations.

These functions were presented to the Board of Directors and accepted with amendments to clarify these facts:

1. The Executive Secretary executes policy set by the Board of Directors.
2. Management as used in this document relates to organization operations.

### Membership Climbs

It was reported by the Membership Committee that NAS nearly reached 4400 members during the calendar year 1963 and at the current rate of progress should come close to the 5000 figure by December 30, 1964. The new affiliates that became a part of the NAS during the past year were: Kansas, Texas and New Jersey. Prospects for the coming year look very good.

### Budget 1964-65

A budget of over \$60,000 was approved for the coming fiscal year. Included in this budget were such major items as:

1. Provision for more secretarial help.
2. Employment of a part-time professional editor and assistant to the executive secretary.
3. Provision for additional office equipment.
4. Funds for publishing various types of brochures.
5. Increase in cost of publishing the *Journal of Environmental Health*.
6. Provision for a loan of \$1000 to the Sanitarian's Joint Council to implement a Plan for the Certification of Sanitarians.

### New Regions

At the request of the state presidents that make up Region IX which consists of the following states: New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, a recommendation was made to split the region in two due to the amount of travel involved for the regional vice president.

The action taken was to create a new region; Region 11 to be made up of: Maine, Vermont, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut. Region 9 consists of Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey.

President James A. Doyle appointed Anthony LaFazia, Past President of the Rhode Island Association, as Vice President, Region 11, until an election can be held at the 29th Annual Educational Conference to be held in Miami Beach, Florida.

## THE ROLE OF THE SANITARIAN IN A RADIOLOGICAL HEALTH PROGRAM

By DAVID PEDEN, R.S., M.P.H.\*

*Director of Environmental Health, Montgomery County, Ohio, Health Dept.*

The time is past due that the sanitarian and local health agencies throughout the country stop fearing the Radiological Health field.

There are several local health departments throughout the country that have proven the sanitarian can be easily trained for making surveys of medical and dental x-ray equipment. These sources are responsible for the bulk of the reducible exposure to the population. The reduction systems which; reduce exposure time, shield patient and operator, reduce beam sizes to only that size needed for film exposure, beam filtration to eliminate softer rays and similar practices, still consistent with good diagnostic

techniques are systems not too dissimilar to practices and systems now taught and advocated by the public health sanitarian in his other duties.

The sanitarian, indeed, is the most available professionally trained person to include the Radiological Health program within his discipline of environmental health.

A movie showing the practicality and economy of a program of x-ray protection survey was produced for presentation at this time. The 8 mm sound, color movie can be shown only on a "Kodak Sound 8" projector or the sound is distorted or absent. It is available upon request through the N.A.S. headquarters.

## THE PROBLEM OF LEAD POISONING IN CHILDREN

By SALVATORE MIANO, R.S., M.P.H., *Acting Chief, Accident Control Section  
Philadelphia Department of Public Health\**

Lead poisoning in children is a disease which only recently has come to be recognized as a serious public health problem.

Since 1950, 804 cases and 76 deaths have occurred in Philadelphia. Similar data are being reported in other urban areas where attention to the problem has been manifested.

Lead poisoning occurs predominately in the 1 to 3 year age group which accounts for 82% of the cases. More cases (1/3) occur in the six month period of 19 to 24 months of age than in any other age group. The ratio of cases in the lower socio-economic group is 5 to 1 as compared with other groups. The mortality rate is about 10%.

Lead Poisoning is a summer disease, although the reason for the increased incidence during this period has not been

definitely established. May through October is the period of highest incidence.

The Sanitarian, because of his unique training and experience, plays an important role as a member of the public health team in the control of lead poisoning. This is the area in which the Sanitarian can utilize his special training and experience in environmental health in making a contribution to the management of the lead poisoning problem.

Legislation is necessary to make a significant contribution toward control of the lead poisoning problem when complemented by an effective educational effort.

The relationship of pica, nutrition, family relationships and more efficient environmental measures and control are areas requiring further study and will present a challenge for the future.

\*Abstracted from a paper given at the 28th Annual Educational Conference, NAS, Philadelphia, June 29 - July 3, 1964.

## URBAN RENEWAL: A PANORAMIC VIEW

By IVAN B. GLUCKMAN, *Assistant Development Coordinator,  
City of Philadelphia\**

The present urban renewal program is a partnership venture of local, state, and federal governments. This partnership grew out of local code enforcement efforts and federal housing programs, such as FHA mortgage insurance and public housing initiated in the 1930's. It was not until after the Second World War, however, notably with the enactment of the Housing Act of 1949 by the Congress, that urban renewal appeared in something like its present form.

Originally known as "slum clearance" and later "redevelopment", it was purely a process of condemning entire areas of slum housing, demolishing them, and building anew.

More recently the concept of urban renewal has expanded to include many other kinds and qualities of action. Under a process known as "conservation" it is possible to root out spots of blight and replace them with new developments, and with replanning, zoning, and the installation of needed community facilities, to complete the job of restoring older neighborhoods to health and vitality.

Philadelphia today is able to demonstrate through its comprehensive program the scope of urban renewal. Our program has four major facets:

(1) *Residential*

- (a) clearance and redevelopment
- (b) conservation

(2) *Industrial*

Projects of this type provide the City with needed space for industry, giving the economy

vitality and strengthening the City's tax base.

(3) *Institutional*

Projects of this type provide the space so sorely needed by hospitals, universities, and other institutions of public benefit.

(4) *Center City*

This part of the program aims to revitalize and dramatize the City's cultural, residential, and business core, cutting across the functional classifications already described to assure the entire metropolitan area of a strong and meaningful heart.

Currently, urban renewal is spreading out towards still broader frontiers. This is occurring as it becomes more and more difficult to separate the physical from the social problems that plague urban communities. In Philadelphia, for example, we have a Centralized Relocation Bureau to assist persons forced to move by any kind of governmental action. In the course of this relocation assistance a serious attempt is made to get to the source of problems uncovered with referrals made to appropriate social agencies.

The future of urban renewal cannot presently be charted with any degree of accuracy. All that can be said is that the program will continue to change in response to the vital needs of the urban society. It also seems likely to become a continuing process closely related to the creation of the healthy environment for which sanitarians have been working for many years.

*\*Abstracted from a paper given at the 28th Annual Educational Conference, NAS, Philadelphia, June 29 - July 3, 1964.*

## A STUDY OF DISINFECTION AND THE OCCURRENCE OF SELECTED BACTERIA IN SWIMMING POOL WATERS

By JACK HATLEN, *Instructor, Preventive Medicine*  
*University of Washington, Seattle, Wash.\**

Water samples were routinely collected from a series of outdoor swimming pools treated with chlorine or iodine. Samples were tested for the presence of a variety of organisms either recommended or proposed for indicators of swimming pool water quality. The concentration of disinfectant and the pH of the water was measured each time a sample was collected.

The data obtained permitted comparison of the frequency of isolation of indicator organisms: coliforms, enterococci, pseudomonads, pathogenic staphylococci, "total cocci", and total bacterial count

by concentration of disinfectant and pH.

No single test organism or chemical test was found to serve as a good indicator of swimming pool water quality. In a chlorinated pool it was important to run a total bacterial count and to test for one other indicator organism. In an iodinated pool the significance of the total bacterial count was questionable and other indicators were better tests of the bacterial quality of the water. The pH of swimming pool waters in the range of 7.0 to 8.4 has little or no effect on the occurrence of any of the indicator organisms.

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## ROLE OF THE SANITARIAN IN AIR POLLUTION CONTROL

By CARL H. MOLINE, M.P.H., *Robert A. Taft Sanitary Engineering Center\**

Last December the 1963 Clean Air Act became a law. More ready to enforce this law than any other group are the Public Health Sanitarians. On record already are cases when sanitarians did or did not assist responsible people with regard to pollution — from lumber mills and asphalt batching plants, a proposed refuse disposal system, use of a herbicide at an airport, a burning dump, and a sulphur recovery plant.

Air Pollution potential may be appraised systematically by making an Emission Inventory. This consists of classifying sources and probable pollutants respective to them. The emissions

can be calculated and the day can be utilized in order to establish emission standards.

A Receptor Survey is performed to determine the effects of pollutants. This merely consists of investigating and observing effects and compiling the data in an orderly manner. The purpose is manifold. Estimating the cost of damage is a possibility once a receptor survey is completed.

An Air Quality Survey is performed to determine the quality of the ambient air in the community. It may be used as a check on initiated control programs.

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## EPIDEMIOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF ACCIDENTS INVOLVING GLASS DOORS

By JOHN D. ECKHOFF, R.S., *Assistant Director, Sanitation Div., Dept. of Public Health, Dade County, Florida\**

We have too long allowed our experience and abilities to be confined to the basic categories of environmental health services which provided the medium for our rise to professional recognition. The epidemiological study of accidents involving glass doors is an example of the environmental health workers role in future vistas of public health.

Preliminary studies of doors presumed to be of shatterproof glass revealed that most of them are 3/16 inch, or about the double thickness of ordinary window glass. No concerted effort was being made to improve on this. It is estimated that 40,000 accidents of this nature occur every year.

A national study group was formed with representatives from the National Safety Council, PHS, Florida State Board of Health, and Dade County, Florida, Dept. of Public Health. Ques-

tionnaires were used to reveal data on accidents acquired by the agent replacing the glass. Equipment was prepared for field use to measure glass thickness. Out of 128 cases studied, 21 involved accidental injury. Further investigation revealed age group and circumstances of each case. Included was a detailed study of the glass installation involved.

Reluctance of some victims to answer questionnaires hindered the study. The PHS offered to extend the study to other areas of the nation. Twenty-five local health departments volunteered to cooperate. In each area, two-hour training sessions were held involving a total of 375 environmental health personnel, nurses, and safety engineers.

The most prominent factor revealed was that in nearly every case tempered, laminated, or wired safety glass would have prevented or limited injury.

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## THE AIR POLLUTION PROBLEM, PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

By J. P. SHEEHY, *Director, Training Program, U. S. Public Health Service\**

We ask such questions as, what pollutants are in the air, where do they come from, how do they get where they are, what do they do, and if they indeed affect us what is being done about them? Answers to these questions are given, history of lethally concentrated pollutants affecting communities is recalled, and brief explanations of causative factors are mentioned.

Sources due to industrial and domestic activity are related to population developments and super urban areas are mentioned as examples of pressing needs for control of pollution.

Specific pollutants are named with respective processes. Statistics are given for the purpose of pointing out the great amount of combustion which is necessary to produce materials per capita in the United States. The Los Angeles problem is a forecast (perhaps) of future problems faced by other cities throughout the United States.

Progress is being made, however the problem is continually growing. It is obvious that we must accelerate the pace of our progress if we are to save our country from literally running out of air.

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## **"PUBLIC HEALTH — THE PUBLIC — AND THE SANITARIAN"**

By CARL C. KUEHN, M.D., *Director, Bureau of Field Services,  
Pennsylvania Dept. of Health\**

Although the health officer must provide leadership toward "selling" a health department, and put it into as favorable light as possible through the commonly known mass media, we must recognize the fact that the public is being constantly bombarded with this type of propaganda from the myriads of governmental agencies, businesses and industries which are competing for their ears. It is too often overlooked that public relations is a two-way process. We should be striving just as hard getting information, reactions and information from the public as we are dispensing them.

If the health department consumer is dealt with in an unsatisfactory manner, a good professional, scientific job can be negated in the minds of the press, professions or business groups. The consumer is entitled to prompt, courteous and efficient service; and if that service cannot be promptly provided it is essential that he know the reason why and be given an honest answer.

Public relations and public health both

contain the word "public." This means people. Our customers, our employees and our bosses are people; and people differ.

One of the most important public relations factors is related to the personal contacts each individual department employee has with the public. I'm afraid not enough attention has been given to the fact that the impression a citizen gets about an agency is usually based upon his personal experience with that agency. If this has been favorable he has a favorable attitude toward the department, and vice-versa.

Regardless of your job in the department — sanitarian, health officer, receptionist, telephone operator or what — if you have direct contact with the public then the impression the public has of the department as a whole is very much related to the person-to-person relationship you develop while doing your job.

In the eyes of the public with whom you directly do business — *you* are the health department.

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### **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in the N.A.S. is both a privilege and an obligation—a fact which is recognized by true professionals. Programs of the N.A.S. benefit the entire profession—and the larger the membership, the more the association can do—for the profession and for society as a whole