

## ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

### THIRD ANNUAL N.A.S. CONVENTION

The Third Annual Convention got under way adhering strictly to the previously outlined program. This was handled very efficiently by the program committee. The N.A.S., Inc., wishes to extend to all members who participated in the developing of this program its heartiest thanks.

The convention was opened by the Hon. Dr. W. J. McCracken, mayor of the City of Oakland, who gave a short address welcoming the entire organization to spend a profitable and entertaining sojourn in the city. The invocation was given by the Reverend Bernard C. Ruggles.

Telegram, letters and greetings from far and near were then read at the general assembly.

The next order was the technical session, presided over by past president Jack G. Baker, dealing with recent laws on sanitation.

F. D. Sweger read a short paper on recent laws covering the entire field of public health sanitation.

Comments from the floor were next in order. Charles G. Kahlert was called on to give a resume of the progress being made by the Los Angeles County Health Department in its new treatment of the old subject of food handlers' examination, the new phase being compulsory instruction by the health department of all food handlers in the subject of hygiene and sanitation.

A very instructive program was then presented by Bob Plunkett, dealing with the various phases of visual education. A short moving picture film was shown, stereoptican slides were reviewed, and posters were displayed—augmenting the discussion.

A general membership luncheon was presided over by F. S. Jimison with the principal speaker, Mr. Homer N. Calver, director of health exhibits of the New York World's Fair, giving a brief review of the part the sanitarian plays in maintaining a safe, sound and sanitary place for the world to attend.

Mr. Calver's treatment of this subject was most enlightening to all sanitarians present as it gave the membership an additional conception of the importance of sanitation.

The afternoon program presided over by President Pickett witnessed the presentation of the activities of the National Association of Sanitarians, Inc., in joint session with the Western Branch of the American Public Health Association.

Mr. A. H. Bliss, coordinator, brought to light

the necessity of establishing an adequate educational and practical standard of qualifications for all sanitarians. This report was of vital interest to all members present and also to those who were not fortunate enough to be able to attend.

### HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

By unanimous action of the Board of Directors, the second honorary membership in the National Association of Sanitarians, Inc., was conferred upon that worthy champion of the sanitarians' cause, Dr. Karl F. Meyer. This presentation occurred in the Ivory Court of the Hotel Oakland at the convention banquet on July 29th, and was conducted by the Association's president, N. W. Pickett. His short and forceful eulogy of Dr. Meyer confirmed our recognition of that inexhaustible energy through which our sanitarian movement has derived much aid, and of the enthusiasm engendered in those taking Dr. Meyer's courses offered through the curricula in public health because of his great personal friendliness as well as his wealth of pertinent information. Dr. Meyer's acceptance of this honor was magnificent. It was such that all sanitarians would have been thrilled from the crowns of their heads to the tips of their toes. We take great pride in having Dr. Meyer associated with us.

### N.A.S. OFFICERS FOR 1940

At a duly assembled annual meeting of the Board of Directors, the following slate of officers was presented by the nominating committee and was unanimously accepted by the assembled convention:

They are: *President*—Will B. Butler, Oakland, California.

*First Vice President*—Elmer B. Quist, Cedar City, Utah.

*Second Vice President*—William Fultz, Olympia, Washington.

*Treasurer*—Floyd S. Jimison, Los Angeles, California.

*Board of Directors*, whose terms will expire in 1942—N. W. Pickett, Salt Lake City, Utah; Edward M. Digneo, Santa Fe, N. M.; Noel McKeehan, Phoenix, Arizona.

All these officers will take their place January 1, 1940.

The new member to be elected to the Department of Registration and Certification, succeeding himself, was C. G. Gillespie, Berkeley, Calif.

The Secretary and Business Manager are appointive jobs, by the Board of Directors, and will be appointed at a later date.

# Editorial

The National Association of Sanitarians, Inc., were honored by the presence of distinguished guests at the annual banquet. The paper delivered by the speaker of the evening, Professor W. B. Herms, University of California, will be published in the near future. The other speakers gave short talks advising sanitarians concerning objectives both for themselves as public health workers and for the growth of their organization.

Dr. A. Stampar, Public Health Advisor, League of Nations, stated that he was well acquainted with the usefulness of sanitation personnel and that they had assisted him in his program in Yugoslavia. But the sanitarian must know more than the technical details of his job, he must be a student of the social and economic conditions which exist in his district and state. Dr. Stampar feels that it is a mistake to separate public health from social welfare since the health of people is dependent to a large extent on the social and economic needs of the people. Therefore it is necessary to approach the problem by getting at the underlying causes and finding a remedy. The sanitarian is in constant contact with the public and can make studies and observations which will assist the general public health program.

These suggestions were reaffirmed by Dr. Karl Meyer, who stated further that the sanitarian should be a public health missionary, he should be able to interpret the program into the language of the people. It is only by informing large groups in a community that the public health program will become effective. This in turn calls for training which should include some of the social sciences.

Mr. Homer Calver, Secretary, American Museum of Health and Director of Health Exhibits at the New York World's Fair advised our

association to extend its activities into the middle west and to the Atlantic coast. For the past nine years, sanitarians in the western area have been organized for the promotion of their status as public health workers. The benefits derived from this group action should be spread to other parts of the country, where, if properly explained, it would be heartily received. He stated that enough preliminary work had been done to stabilize this movement and that other similar groups should be encouraged to form state sections.

All speakers emphasized the growing importance of the sanitarian as a public health worker.

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The Alameda County, California, Civil Service Commission recently held an examination for the position of Sanitary Inspector. Among the requirements was the restriction that only those who had taken a special training course would be eligible.

This is the first time that applicants to a civil service position have been required to meet this high standard. Several years ago the San Diego City Civil Service Commission gave special training as an alternate requirement for an examination for Food Inspector.

Where these examinations have meant anything at all, the usual procedure in the past has been to let down the bars for applications but to set the standard for questions at a high level. If residence restrictions are removed, the requirement of training will give an impetus to training courses throughout the country.

After listening to justifiable complaints from school janitors for years, we feel that hygiene courses for girls should include a frank lecture on "How to Use a Toilet".