

## EDITORIAL PAGE

A. HARRY BLISS

The space normally devoted to the editor's page has been set aside in this issue so that you may have the opportunity to review the condensed report on the Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the National Association of Sanitarians in Florida. If you are not interested in the business of the N.A.S. you must at least read our managing editor's report on his observations of the Florida "affair."

The Editor would be remiss in his duties, however, if he did not point out the fact that the Engineering Section of the American Public Health Association has invited the National Association of Sanitarians to hold a joint meet-

ing with them at the annual A.P.H.A. meeting in San Francisco.

The Sanitarians were asked to participate in the program and two subjects were selected: "Checking Plans and Specifications for Sanitation Items" by Frank A. Gohr, M.P.H., R.S., and Jordan Hiratzka, B.S., R.S.; and Food Plant Sanitation" by Paul E. Laughlin, B.S., R.S.

I trust that members will notice that the Editor has changed the sub-title on the cover from "A Journal of Sanitary Technology" to read "A Journal of Sanitary Science." It is our hope that we can be worthy of a development from a technology to a science.

Dignitaries participating in the program of welcome to delegates at the Fifteenth Annual Convention of the National Association of Sanitarians were The Honorable Burnett Roth, Vice-Mayor of Miami Beach, who presented N.A.S. officials with keys to the convention city; Herbert L. Bryans, M.D., President, Florida State Board of Health; Wilson T. Sowder, M.D., Florida State Health Officer; T. E. Cato, M.D., Dade County Health Commissioner; and David B. Lee, M.S., Eng., President, Florida Public Health Association.

The educational program swung into full stride with a discussion of "The Naval Preventive Medicine Training Program" by Robert E. Mytinger, Lt. Jg., MSC, USN, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Washington, D. C., stressing the importance of teaching sanitary practices to both military and civilian personnel.

Vincent B. Lamoureaux, Sanitary Engineer Director, National Security Resources Board, Washington, D. C., in his talk on "The Federal Civil Defense Administration" emphasized the importance of keeping a record of and of aligning the manpower resources of the country for all-out offense and defense.

M. A. Williamson, Director, International Correspondence Schools, Tampa, talked on "Food Plant Sanitation," and pointed out that the sanitarian of today must have a broad understanding of a variety of subjects and processes to be effective in his work.

Captain R. W. Hohl, USMC, U. S. Naval Station, Pensacola, speaking on the true characteristics of the atomic bomb, stressed the fact that the greatest danger from atomic explosions is psychological, and with a realization of the limitations of the bomb and proper control of

emotions, chances of survival are greatly increased. The U. S. Navy Atomic Energy Exhibit, represented by Captain Hohl, occupied most of the lobby near the registration desk. Originally designed for the instruction of naval personnel, this exhibit, through the medium of pictures, diagrams and literature, covered every phase of the atomic energy field.

Homer N. Calver, Editor of *Health Officer's News Digest*, added to the edification of the sanitarian by pointing out the importance of public relations in getting a job done, and explaining what constitutes public relations.

The history of sanitation was traced back to the early Egyptians by Angus Laird, Supervisor, Florida Merit System, who used Biblical quotations to establish Moses as the first sanitarian. He pointed out that through the ages other great leaders have employed sanitary measures quite similar to those used by modern sanitarians.

Donald E. Lundberg, Ph.D., Head, Department of Restaurant and Hotel Management, Florida State University, Tallahassee, emphasized the importance of getting people interesting in doing the right thing, and pointed out that interest is usually based on a purely selfish standpoint.

The afternoon of the second day was devoted to four panel meetings (held concurrently) on the subjects "Trailer Camp Sanitation," "Household Sewage Disposal," "Hot Water Requirements for Food Establishments," and "Slum Clearance." The choice of subjects enabled delegates to select their particular field of interest.

The educational program was continued the third day by a discussion of "World Health Affairs" by Wesley E. Gilbertson, Sanitary Engineer, U. S. Public Health Service, stressing the importance of a "common language" being



CONVENTION

1951

ACTIVITIES

1. Cooperation between sanitarians and public health nurses is the keynote of this exhibit, arranged by Miss Ruth Mettinger, Director, Florida State Board of Health Division of Public Health Nursing. Shown in photo are (L. to R.): Fred Safay, Miss Florence Callahan, Nurse Consultant, U.S.P.H.S., Atlanta, Ga.; and Miss Mettinger.

2. Notables at the convention included (L. to R.): Wilson T. Sowder, M. D., Florida State Health Officer; T. E. Cato, M. D., Dade County (Florida) Health Officer; Herbert Bryans, M. D., President, Florida State Board of Health; and Fred Safay, R. S., retiring president, N.A.S.

3. N.A.S. directors receive a progress report from retiring president Fred Safay, R. S. (standing, left background).

4. A feature of the annual banquet was the presentation of charters to newly admitted sections. Here President Fred Safay presents charters to Frank Story (center) of Kentucky, and Alonzo Fike of Maryland.

5. S. J. (Don) Sorbello, (left) St. Louis City

Health Department, and John E. Dolan, Colorado State Department of Health (newly elected president and vice-president, respectively) extend mutual congratulations following their election.

6. Front row, L. to R.: Albert Grego, N.A.S. recording secretary; Don Sorbello, president; John E. Dolan, vice-president; Vance C. Fleming, treasurer; C. F. Baughman, chairman, Board of Examiners. Second row, L. to R.: Edward McLarty, director; Fred Safay, junior past president; A. G. Owens, director; Alonzo Fike, president of the Maryland Association of Sanitarians; and Roscoe C. Davis, executive secretary.

7. Mrs. S. J. (Don) Sorbello, wife of the new president, receives a lei from a member of the Hawaiian delegation.

8. A private yacht was made available to conventioners. A number of daylight and moonlight cruises were a part of the varied entertainment program.

9. Time out for coffee. L. to R., clockwise around the table: Allen K. Henry, Claudius J. Walker, George Gehres, and Dick Hardison of Florida; C. W. "Moose" Clark of Oregon.

worked out by the people of the earth insofar as public health is concerned.

L. M. Fisher, Engineering Field Associate, American Public Health Association, described the grants-in-aid which was set up in 1949 by the U. S. Public Health Service for the purpose of evaluating the work performed by sanitarians in this country.

Through the medium of illustrative charts, his personality and grasp of sales psychology, Frank Goodwin, Ph.D., Professor of Marketing, University of Florida, Gainesville, in his presentation "Salesmanship in Public Health," definitely established the importance of his subject matter.

The importance of good publicity in promoting good sanitation was discussed by Charles E. Steele, Associate in Sanitation, University of California, Los Angeles, and managing editor of THE SANITARIAN.

The day's program was concluded with a talk by Sam O. Noles, Milk Consultant, Florida State Board of Health. His subject "New Products in the Dairy Field" was of special interest to dairy sanitarians and to those in the dairy industry.

A. P. Black, Ph.D., Department of Chemistry, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, led off the final day's program by covering the academic field of public health and stressing the need for more academic train-

*To the following exhibitors, whose cooperation made the Fifteenth Annual Convention outstanding, the National Association of Sanitarians expresses its appreciation.*

**The American Dietetic Association**

620 North Michigan Avenue  
Chicago 11, Illinois

**Auto-Chlor System, Incorporated**

734 Alabama Avenue  
Memphis 7, Tennessee

**Camp Chemical Company, Incorporated**

170 Second Street  
Brooklyn 15, New York

**Dade County Dairy Industry**

(Courtesy Dairy Bar)

**Department of the Navy**

Bureau of Medicine and Surgery  
Washington, D. C.

**The Diversey Corporation**

1820 Roscoe Street  
Chicago 13, Illinois

**Division of Public Health Nursing**

Florida State Board of Health  
Jacksonville, Florida

**Downs Engineering Company**

1883 Columbus Avenue  
Springfield 4, Massachusetts

**Economics Laboratory, Incorporated**

Guardian Building  
St. Paul, Minnesota

**Florida Power and Light Company**

25 S. E. Second Avenue  
Miami, Florida

**Florida State Board of Conservation**

Oyster Division  
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**Florida State Board of Health**

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**Florida State University**

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**Florida Tuberculosis and Health Association**

235 East Monroe Street  
Jacksonville, Florida

**Foley-Irish Corporation**

31 Washington Street  
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665 Glen Street, S.W.  
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155 East 44th Street  
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Powell Publishing Company  
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120 Broadway  
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**Prentiss Drug and Chemical Company, Inc.**

110 William Street  
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**The Philip Sifton Septic Tank Company**

717 North Euclid Avenue  
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1213 Norwood Avenue  
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1450 Broadway  
New York 18, New York

**U. S. Naval Air Station**

Pensacola, Florida

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Wyandotte, Michigan

**Public Health Committee**

**Paper Cup and Container Institute**

New York, New York

(Premiere showing revised movie Safe Service.)

ing to equip the sanitarian to carry his share of the load in protecting the public health.

The next paper, "Sanitation in the Field of Public Health," was prepared by George W. Cox, M.D., Texas State Health Officer. Due to Dr. Cox's absence through circumstances beyond his control, his talk was read at the meeting. Dr. Cox expressed keen disappointment at not being able to attend, as he wanted to personally congratulate the sanitarians on the progress made in gaining recognition as professional personnel in the realm of public health, and urged that a unity of purpose among public health workers be carried forward to help thwart the threat of worldwide communism.

Last speaker on the educational program was John J. McManus, Chief, Southeastern District, U. S. Food and Drug Securities Commission, Atlanta, Georgia. In discussing the "Planned Activities of the Food and Drug Administration in Event of Disaster Caused Through War," he pointed out the importance of coordination of thinking and acting in the event of a disaster to minimize its effects, and the important role played by various health workers in supervising the vital supply of food and drugs, so important to the economy of the country in peace or in war.

#### Business Meetings

At the meeting of the out-going Board of Directors, the affiliation of four new sections—Kentucky, Maryland, Washington, D. C., and West Virginia was approved, and it was decided that hereafter all sections are to adopt the N.A.S. by-laws by reference, adding thereto whatever local conditions may be applicable.

Officers for the coming year, elected at the general assembly are:

President: S. J. "Don" Sorbello, R.S., St. Louis, Missouri.

Vice-President: J. E. "Ed" Dolan, R.S., Denver, Colorado.

Treasurer: Vance C. Fleming, R.S., Los Angeles, California.

Directors (3 year terms): Alvin Kreutzer, R.S., St. Louis, Missouri; A. G. Owens, R.S., Ruston, Louisiana; Edward McLarty, R.S., Los Angeles, California.

Directors (1 year terms): M. M. Miller, R.S., Denver, Colorado.

Board of Examiners: C. F. Baughman, R.S., Bakersfield, California.

At the meeting of the incoming Board of Directors, Roscoe C. Davis was reappointed as Executive Secretary; Joseph L. Taylor of Oregon was appointed to the Publications Committee, replacing William McCreery of Los Angeles, whose term had expired; and Norman Hauret, of California, to the Executive Committee to fill the vacancy created by the demise of John Gluth.

The N.A.S. has been invited to participate in the A.P.H.A. meeting to be held in San Francisco this fall. The policy set down by the

board for such participation is for the local section to do the honors for the N.A.S., with as many of the national officers as possible also participating.

Milwaukee won the bid for the 1953 convention over New Orleans and Boston—but remember . . . it's Denver in 1952—September 2, 3, 4 and 5!

Extracted by Charles E. Steele, R.S., from "Report of the Fifteenth Annual Convention of the National Association of Sanitarians . . ." prepared by Albert Grego, R.S., N.A.S. Recording Secretary, and approved by Roscoe C. Davis, R.S., N.A.S. Executive Secretary.

#### Convention Observations

We<sup>1</sup> would not want our innocent remarks to aggravate the internecine relations already existing between proponents of Florida and those who prefer their breezes off the Pacific, for Florida has always been provincial, and California equally so; but the fact remains that we have returned from the convention subdued.

It is not so much that the lack of air-conditioning in our hostelry conjured up not-so-enticing conceptions of the thermal qualities of our probable hereafter—we have been assured that the hotel was designed one February by a visiting Damsyankee to whom humidity was but a relative term.

Rather it is the fact that our colleagues in Florida would not let us go swimming. Actually, we hadn't planned on swimming anyway. We were only at the pool for the purpose of making certain anthropological comparisons between the fairer denizens and visitors of Florida and those of more salubrious climes. This subject is definitely worthy of a more detailed study than our time and marital status permit. There are courses offered in comparative anatomy, but field work and continued personal observation are worthy adjuncts of any curriculum. (Academicians please note.)

We had, in the interest of science, moved closer to the pool to better observe a macromastic<sup>2</sup> brunette teetering on the diving board when our way was blocked by two of the Florida boys. Gracious hosts, these Floridians—genuine southern gentlemen, suh—but sanitarians always.

"Sorry, Charlie," said one, "we can't let you go in the pool—not with that dermatitis." He shook his head reprovingly. "You shouldn't even be exposing yourself in public—not in your condition."

His companion nodded knowingly. "I suppose out in California you're still sticking to bismuth and arsenicals; but really, Charlie, our doctors are getting wonderful results with penicillin."

"Look, Boys," we spluttered, "this isn't what you seem to think—this is heat rash. It's the climate—"

"Now, now, Charlie. Don't say anything you'll regret. Come on up on the porch. We want you to meet some fellows from Jax."<sup>3</sup>

Aside, however, from a narrow professional attitude that prompts observations of dermatitis when there are expanses of unblemished skin in the immediate vicinity (even we forgot our heat rash in the heat of the moment. We doubt if California scenery *alone* could be of such therapeutic value), we have nothing but praise for our Floridian colleagues.

It is true certainly, that the humidity dampened<sup>4</sup> enthusiasm and throttled the public address system—but such is to be expected in the tropics. The general tone of the program and the interest shown by industry speaks well for the growing prestige of our organization and the sincere and untiring efforts of the convention committeemen.

To be sure, the exhibitors, since their cooperation is primarily of a public relations and educational nature, were entitled to more attention that was received; but convention committees are not to be maligned for the indifference of conventioners.

In any analysis of the efforts of others it is well to realize the handicaps under which they work. Committees—and in many cases, committee chairmen alone—are burdened with the bulk of the work of any organization; and when, as was certainly the case in Florida, many committee chairmen and members were employed as far from the convention site as Jacksonville,<sup>5</sup> their problems are definitely multiplied.

The ideal situation perhaps would be to have all convention committee members from the immediate vicinity of the convention city; to have physical facilities such that all registrants could conveniently visit the exhibits; to have copies of all papers to be delivered submitted as a concomitant of formal acceptance of the invitation to speak.

But we doubt if in our time (and this our is collective) all our objectives can be attained. The ideal, although unattainable, is not unapproachable, as the growth of our organization, and our experiences, including those of this past year, have so aptly proven.

1. We is often used by certain categories of political speakers, editorial writers, and other schizophrenics to imply numbers, in which there is safety.

2. A more complete description might be in order, but this conveys the general idea.

3. Jacksonville: Cf. Frisco.

4. This is not a pun; however, Florida humidity differs from the west coast variety in being transparent. No fog lights were noted on Florida cars.

5. It was 0.6 of a mile from the convention hotel to the nearest drug store. Such are distances in Florida.

CHARLES E. STEELE, R.S.

Sanitation presents an illustrious history, a chaotic present and a challenging future.

—DR. HENRY F. VAUGHN

Quoted by *Peoples Health* (India)

## THE SECRETARY'S DESK

ROSCOE C. DAVIS, R.S., *Executive Secretary*

It was indeed gratifying to receive letters from our retired members, expressing appreciation for the receipt of their permanent membership cards in the National Association of Sanitarians.

Also, all were equally pleased to receive THE SANITARIAN, which, as they stated, has kept them upto date in the field of their choice . . . Environmental Sanitation.

All, in various terms, expressed their continued interest in the Association to which they wished continued success.

FELLOW SANITARIANS: We who are still in harness follow the footsteps you have left for our guidance.

We will exert every energy to perpetuate the monument that you have built as an example of your faithfulness to mankind.

Montana Sanitarians, meeting September 7 and 8 at Montana State College, Bozeman, voted to organize and affiliate with the National Association of Sanitarians.

Elected as officers of the Montana organization were: William Shea, Great Falls City-County Health Office, President; Lester D. Groom, Bozeman City-County Health Office, Vice-President; and Elton M. Andrews, State Board of Health (Helena), Secretary-Treasurer.

The following sanitarians signed the petition for affiliation: William Shea, Thomas A. McMaster, John P. Cunningham, Michard L. Farrant, J. D. C. Wipf, W. G. Walter, Lester D. Groom, C. Wyman Taylor, Elton M. Andrew, William R. Reinhart, Howard J. Morton, James O. Lodge, Kenneth D. Claus, Harry W. Ramsey, John J. Dolan, and Thomas Lofthouse.

Petitions for affiliation of four sections—Kentucky, Maryland, Washington, D. C., and West Virginia—were approved by the Board of Directors at the recent convention in Florida. Whether the Montana group will choose to wait until the convention in Denver next year for formal action on their petition, or will prefer immediate action of the Board of Directors by mail vote is not known at this time.

The Western Branch Research Laboratories of the National Canners Association, formerly located at 322 Battery Street, San Francisco, has been moved to 1950 Sixth Street, Berkeley 2, California, according to Dr. J. Russell Esty, Director.

Great minds have purposes, others have wishes.

—WASHINGTON IRVING