

THE SECRETARY'S DESK

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

Another important chapter in the history of the NAS came to a most successful and eventful close in New Orleans, Louisiana, where the 18th Annual Educational Conference of our Association was held on August 16 through 20, 1954. The entire program was replete with excellent speakers, inspiring subjects, and scintillating entertainment which culminated with the elaborate and gorgeous replica of the famous Mardi Gras, staged in connection with the Annual Banquet. Throughout the five-day program the delegates were literally stuffed with the delicious and savory cuisine which has made New Orleans famous. Yes, this Conference will long be remembered as one of the greatest ever put on for the NAS.

Dr. Ben Freedman of Louisiana, in his talk on "The History of the Sanitarian," did an exceptionally good job of compiling a continuous history of the work of Sanitarians from ancient times. The scope of the Sanitarian's activities have changed from time to time. At one time physicians performed some of the duties of present-day Sanitarians. Usually, we think of Sanitarians developing out of the engineering profession; but, actually, they developed as an arm of the medical profession. In order for the Sanitarian to build up to a full professional status, he must standardize his practices through uniformity of training and thinking. One of the best ways to accomplish this is through organization in associations such as the NAS.

Dr. Abraham Gelperin of Iowa stated in his talk on "Water Absorption Capacities of Various Soils" that the suc-

cessful performance of private sewage disposal systems depends on the permeability of the soil, and that, as a consequence, a knowledge of soil types makes possible more accurate decisions on such installations. To this end, research has been carried on to establish soil types and numbering them for easier classification. Thus, a soil bearing a certain number would be the same wherever it was found. In order to save time of Sanitarians in performing percolation tests, a timing device has been worked out with which it is possible for the test to be run automatically, utilizing the principle of the floating ball arrangement in a flush tank. This makes it possible to measure the actual time required for six inches of water to percolate through a soil. Injecting compressed air into a tight soil will increase its permeability. This method has been used successfully in the Des Moines area.

The keynote of Mr. Earl W. Suderth's talk on "Control of Insects Resistant to Various Insecticides" was that basic environmental sanitation is our best approach to insect control. Several so-called miracle insecticides have been developed within recent years which at first gave excellent promise but after some use were found to be inadequate as more resistant strains of the insects were developed. Insects, like human beings, have greater resistance against certain types of diseases and insecticides. DDT, however, is still best for mosquito control; hence space sprays are more effective at night than in the daytime. Rats still have not been able to build a resistance to Warfarin. However, 1080

is still considered the best rodenticide, although it is also the most dangerous to use. Lindane not only immunizes flies but also cockroaches. The best possible fly control is basic sanitation.

Other important papers were given during the Conference, and the entire educational program was excellent. All of the papers were presented for publication in THE SANITARIAN.

President-Elect Floyd M. Miller of Louisiana automatically became our President for the fiscal year 1954-55. The other officers elected were Dr. Joseph G. Goldfarb, Massachusetts, President-Elect; Hayes Evans, Washington, Vice-President; Vance C. Fleming, California, Treasurer; Roscoe C. Davis, California, Executive Secretary; and Nicholas Pohlit, Colorado, Member of the Department of Registration. In addition, three Regional Vice-Presidents were elected to fill vacancies created by expired terms, as follows: W. W. Kimsey, California, Region No. 1 which comprises the States of California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona and the Territory of Hawaii; John Riemer, Louisiana, Region No. 5 which comprises the States of Louisiana, Texas and New Mexico; and Sydney Berlin, Maryland, Region No. 7 which comprises the States of Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, and District of Columbia.

As a further step in the ultimate complete overhaul of our By-Laws, a number of amendments were passed. These will appear in the Minutes of the meeting. When the job is finished, the By-Laws will be printed and distributed to the members.

The Annual Educational Conference Committee reported completion of their manual covering procedure for the holding of annual educational conferences. This manual has been adopted by the Board of Directors as the official procedure for the holding of annual con-

ferences. It is expected that with this excellent manual and the fine work of this Committee our future annual meetings should get progressively better and function more smoothly.

In the past it has been customary to include annual meeting income in the total income of the Association. The Finance Committee indicated that this was a poor practice inasmuch as it gave a false impression among the membership. It was pointed out that all of the expenses of an annual meeting must come out of the annual meeting take. Therefore, that income should not be included with income from dues and other sources. By so doing, the actual income figure would be considerably lower and members were less likely to feel that the organization was spending a great deal of money.

Louisiana now has a State Registration Act, making the fifth State having passed such legislation. Massachusetts, Iowa and several other States have legislation pending on this matter; and it is hoped will come into the fold in the near future. The Louisiana Act restricts the use of the title "Registered Sanitarian" to bona fide Sanitarians.

The Illinois Association of Sanitarians won the bid for the annual educational conference for 1956. The conference will be held in the City of Chicago.

The General Fred A. Safay Memorial Scholarship Committee which was authorized at the Denver meeting and given an extension of time at Milwaukee last year to proceed with this idea reported that it had completed its work and that the plan was ready to operate. As a consequence, the Committee will proceed during this fiscal year to select the candidate that is to receive the scholarship. Complete details of this as well as other items touched on in this brief summary will be carried in the Minutes.