

Association News

DATE OF NEXT SESSION

Suggestions Desired by Board of Trustees Concerning Los Angeles Session, 1911

The date of the next session of the American Medical Association, to be held in Los Angeles, California, is a matter of considerable importance. The great distance which a majority of those who attend will be obliged to travel, and the length of time necessarily consumed in the journey, make it more essential than usual that the date be the one which shall accommodate the greatest number of those who desire to attend. That several of the members are already taking an interest in the matter is evidenced by a number of letters on the subject which the Chairman of the Board of Trustees has received recently and he takes this opportunity not only to acknowledge their receipt but also to express his thanks to the writers thereof for their views thus presented.

It seems to be generally recognized that the first week in June is not a desirable time for the session for the reason that it conflicts with the examinations and the commencement exercises of a large majority of the medical colleges throughout the country.

The question, then, is whether the session should be held early enough in May or April to permit those living in the east to attend and to return in time to close up their college work for the year, or late in June after the college work is over.

If held during the college term it means that many who desire to attend will be unable to do so, perhaps, and that others will be obliged to make a flying trip, while in favor of a later date it may be said that we shall probably secure very favorable railroad rates, with long time extension and choice of diverse route returning with liberal stop-over privileges. This will enable those who so desire to spend their summer vacations in the west or northwest where there are many beautiful and interesting places to visit.

It has been suggested by some that the weather in Los Angeles late in June might be uncomfortably hot. In order to have some reliable information on the subject, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees has secured, from the director of the government weather bureau at Los Angeles, extensive data concerning the weather—temperature, humidity, winds, etc.—at that point for several years past. The following extracts from a letter received from A. B. Wollaber, local forecaster at Los Angeles, indicate very well what may be expected in the line of weather:

"I take pleasure in stating that a careful examination of the records of this office covering a period of 33 years shows that the temperature conditions here are very equable and, with the exception of an occasional warm spell that might occur at any time throughout the year, not at all unpleasant. The highest minimum temperature on record for May is 70 degrees, the average minimum being 52 degrees. For June the highest minimum on record is 70 degrees, the average minimum is 56 degrees and for July the highest minimum is 76 degrees, average minimum 59 degrees. The minimum temperature may be said to fairly represent the night temperature. The average maximum or day temperature during May is 73 degrees, June 78 degrees and July 82 degrees.

"There is one important factor in our temperature conditions here in Los Angeles not easily shown by figures. I refer to the comparatively short duration of the extremes of both heat and cold. It is very rare for the temperature to stay at a maximum for over two hours at a time and the maximum, as a rule, occurs shortly before or shortly after noon. The temperature rises gradually with the advance of the day, until it reaches the maximum when, under the influence of the daily ocean breeze it drops gradually downward until it reaches the minimum during the early morning hours.

"Another and most important factor to be considered is the low humidity which always prevails during the heat of

the day. During heated terms it is not unusual for the humidity to drop as low as 6 per cent, while the average humidity during the heat of an ordinary summer day ranges between 35 and 50 per cent."

Thermograph and hydrograph trace sheets showing the actual temperature and humidity during this period were received, fully confirming the statements above mentioned. It will thus be seen that the fear of meeting with excessively hot weather, even though the session should be held as late as the last week in June or the first in July, are entirely without foundation.

In setting the date of the meeting the Board of Trustees desires solely to accommodate the greatest number and the Chairman of the Board will be very grateful if all who are interested in the date of the session will indicate to him by postal or letter the date on which it will be most convenient for them to attend.

M. L. HARRIS, Chairman, Board of Trustees.
100 State Street, Chicago.

Correspondence

Registration of Foreign Physicians

To the Editor:—To elucidate further the matter of "Registration of Foreign Physicians," I beg leave to comment on the remarks of the writers of the letters in THE JOURNAL, September 3 and 10. Dr. Honeij is right; I am a Canadian, but again he is wrong, I have no friends who wish to register in the United States in the near future or at any other time. If I did have, I should not need to apologize for them, as I am sure that they would acquit themselves honorably.

He is also wrong when he says that I do injustice to American physicians. I reiterate my letter of August 27, and as I spoke truthfully, wherein lieth the injustice? I am sure that the American physician (and not every practitioner is a physician) would rightly resent being classed among the ill-trained aspirants for license to practice in Canada or elsewhere who admit their inability to qualify. That the best colleges of the United States are A1 I will not deny, but that the graduates from the best colleges find the expressed difficulty in obtaining license to practice in Canada, I question. I could easily qualify the remarks as to the thoroughness of the various state board examinations, but I will pass them over, only saying that they are relatively hard, i. e. comparing one state with another. I do not know the requirements of all foreign countries. I was talking about Canada.

A word about the requirements of Great Britain. The conjoint and other boards require a statement of the time spent in each subject, with an examination in that subject in which the candidate passed successfully, certified to by the professor of the subject, before he is permitted to take the examination. The medical council in London accepts the proper credentials from the best American schools, but not from "diploma mills." The examination is both oral and written.

The only reason I can put forth for Dr. Honeij being referred to the Nova Scotia school is that, poor as is its standing, it came nearer the standard required by the licensing board than did the school from which he graduated. I knew several graduates of American universities when I was in London and these had no difficulty in qualifying for and passing the examination. The fact that Dr. Honeij was a citizen of South Africa is no reason why less should be required of him in order to practice medicine there. I would rather suggest raising the standard of examination, requirements, etc., as a means toward keeping foreign physicians out, than by making appeals for legislation whereby the public must suffer. Possibly in the future the foreign countries in question will lower their standards and then the poorly informed "Doe" will be able to shake hands with his friend from abroad and feel himself an equal.

D. NATHAN, Norristown, Pa.