

# ANNUAL ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL DENTAL ASSOCIATION.

By Thomas P. Hinman, D. D. S., President.

*To the Members of the National Dental Association:*

IT IS a privilege indeed to gather together once more from the East, North, South and West to discuss problems for our future welfare. The year just past is a memorable one in our Association work. We have, with your co-operation, accomplished many things for the betterment of our beloved profession.

No single man can make a success of a meeting of this character; therefore, at this time, I wish to thank the members of the Association, the various chairmen of the sections and also the chairmen of the committees for their loyal support which has resulted in bringing about this splendid gathering. I am sure that neither the literary nor clinical program has ever been surpassed in any meeting held in the United States. We are particularly fortunate in having this wonderful theatre, with its artificial system of cooling and superb acoustic properties, in which to hold our general sessions.

It is extremely gratifying to me at this time to pay a tribute to our General Secretary, Dr. Otto U. King. It has been a great pleasure to work with him and it is only just that I say the major part of the work has been made easy thru his competent assistance and valuable suggestions. He is a man of exceptional business ability and it is due to his careful handling of our funds that we are enabled to make such an excellent financial statement.

Your special attention is called to some of the innovations made in the carrying out of our program. The general sessions will be held at night, starting promptly at eight o'clock and closing at ten. The subjects will be presented in the form of symposiums, each symposium lasting one hour, only two being presented in an evening. Each symposium will be offered by a separate section, three essayists to each symposium. These essayists will present the subject matter from their standpoint and there will be no discussion.

I want, at this time, to thank Dr. William H. G. Logan for the most excellent clinical program he is offering. For the first time in a meeting of the National Association, we are to have a clinical lecture program which will be offered on Wednesday afternoon in this theatre, starting promptly at one-thirty. Some of these clinical lectures will be illustrated with moving pictures and thruout the program you will find the clinical films are being used extensively.

This form of teaching is becoming more popular and is a most excellent method of imparting knowledge and technic. A corporation in New York, known as the Clinical Film Company, is accumulating a library of teaching films which will be rented to societies and colleges. These films are carefully censored by Boards of eminent men in the localities where they are produced and are finally passed on by a National Board of Censors. I believe this is an epoch-making advance

and that clinical films will soon assume their proper place in our teaching system.

As president of this great organization, it is my pleasure and privilege to call your attention to steps taken during the past year for the advancement of the profession as well as to recommend to you certain measures which would seem to point to still greater progress.

#### INTER-RELATION BETWEEN ORAL INFECTIONS AND HEALTH.

During the year just past, there has been a wide-spread interest on the part of the medical profession, as well as the laity, on the relation of oral infections to systemic disease and it is exceedingly gratifying that the intelligent members of the medical profession have co-operated with the dentists in the proper handling of such cases. There have been a few sporadic cases where some members of the medical profession have made demands on the dentists to perform operations for patients that were not indicated in the judgment of the dentist and some friction has arisen. However, I am glad to say that in a majority of cases there has been a hearty co-operation between the medical profession and the dentists. No doubt a great many of the periapical cases have been due to careless handling of pulpless teeth by dentists but they have been misled by advertisements of nostrum cure-alls for treating and filling root canals and much harm has resulted from the use of such nostrums. The intelligent operator of today does not use things of this character and I believe we are rapidly approaching standard methods in the treatment and filling of root canals. Splendid work along the lines of standardization has been done by Callahan, Rhein, Best, Ottolengui, Price and many others and it is to these men we must look for safe, sound and satisfactory methods of filling root canals. Our Research Institute has been working along the lines of ionization and will

make report of their findings at this meeting. This work was done in our new Research Building and will be reported by Dr. Weston A. Price.

It is very gratifying to note the thirst for accurate knowledge on the part of our profession and the sacrifices willingly made to obtain it. This was particularly demonstrated at the Tri-State meeting of Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri Societies held in Kansas City last March. At that time, over a thousand dentists from fifteen different states spent one week listening to lectures by specially selected men, every one attending this series of lectures paying an extra five dollar fee. I have rarely seen a gathering of men who were so intensely interested searching for truth and I believe this meeting will go down in history as the greatest of its character ever held. Post graduate form of meeting is gaining in popularity and I wish to record the fact that it was originated in Oklahoma by Dr. B. L. Shobe. The old style meeting to which dentists went for pleasure jaunts are rapidly disappearing and the members of the different societies are now found in the meeting halls instead of the lobbies of hotels.

#### STANDARDIZATION.

I believe we are rapidly approaching a time when a majority of our operations will be standardized, and at this meeting, a paper will be presented by Dr. Forrest H. Orton of St. Paul, Minn., looking to the standardization of crown and bridge work. The day of haphazard methods has passed and the sooner we arrive at definite procedures that can be called, at least, standard, the sooner we will be able to accomplish uniform results. A series of clinical lectures will be given at this meeting looking to the standardization of the therapeutic treatment of the dental pulp, its devitalization, treatment and proper filling of root canals. These lectures will be illustrated by moving picture films and lantern slides

showing the operations from the sterilizing of the hands to the X-Ray picture of the perfectly filled root canal under aseptic conditions.

#### DENTAL COLLEGES.

A distinct advance in the educational curriculum of our dental colleges is now assured. Beginning in 1917, all of the reputable dental colleges have arranged to operate a four year course of thirty-three weeks in each year. Looking backward over a period of more than twenty-five years of active teaching, it seems to me that the colleges of the United States have made wonderful strides. When I graduated, it required only two years of twenty-four weeks each and the course in instruction did not include practical bacteriology, histology nor pathology, and such a thing as a microscope was unknown in the college. There was no operative nor prosthetic technic taught, but the raw students, many of whom could do little more than read and write and with very little instruction in preliminary requirements of an educational nature, were simply turned loose on the patients in the infirmary. Contrast with this our present status of teaching which requires that an applicant must have a High School diploma, or a teacher's license before he can enter college. He is required to be thoroly grounded in the fundamentals and is not allowed to do practical work until he has had at least one year's training. This seems to me a splendid advance in our teaching and I think the dental colleges are to be congratulated on the work they are doing at the present time.

#### NATIONAL RELIEF FUND.

Several years ago, Dr. L. G. Noel, of Nashville, Tenn., started a relief fund for indigent members of the profession. At the present time, \$12,000.00 has been accumulated to the credit of this fund. A considerable portion of this fund has been raised by the sale of Christmas

seals. It is the plan of the Relief Fund Committee to raise at least \$50,000.00 before any money is expended. The committee this year has ordered two million seals and every member of the National Dental Association, or friend of this cause, will be supplied with a dollar package on or before December 10th. These seals will arrive when the Christmas spirit of giving should be on us, therefore, I request that when they come, you send your check for \$1.00 to the General Secretary of the National Dental Association. This one dollar, thus expended, may help some needy soul,— a member of the profession who has not been so fortunate as you. The members of the Association are also requested to send the names of any friends who perhaps would be interested in this fund to the General Secretary of the National Dental Association and he will be glad to send the seals to them also.

#### NATIONAL DENTAL JOURNAL.

It is with considerable pride that I point to the excellence of our National Dental Journal. What is now needed to make it self-sustaining is for the National Dental Association to increase its dues one dollar per year so that it can be issued as a monthly instead of a quarterly. As soon as we do this, our advertising rates can be satisfactorily adjusted and in a short time The Journal will be self-sustaining. It was understood, at the time the National Dental Association was organized and the dues fixed at one dollar, that as soon as The Journal could be established on a monthly basis, the dues of the Association would be increased to \$2.00. I, therefore, recommend and urge that the House of Delegates authorize such an increase at this meeting.

#### LEGISLATION.

The Legislative Committee, thru its Chairman, at the proper time, will make a report on the work accomplished and

give the details of the bill that was passed by Congress this year, authorizing one dentist to every one thousand enlisted men and giving these dental surgeons rank up thru Major. In this work, the Legislative Committee was most ably supported and helped by our General Secretary and his office force. It was thru his office that a great deal of the literature and many of the letters were directed to our members. At the present time, there is being introduced into Congress a bill to clarify the dental legislation in the army and navy and it is hoped that soon the dentists will receive the recognition properly due them.

#### THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

On September 25, 1915, at Cleveland, Ohio, the Executive Board of the Scientific Foundation and Research Commission incorporated under the laws of the State of Ohio. This was done under the authority vested in them at the Kansas City meeting of the National Dental Association, as expressed in Section Ten of the Constitution of the National Dental Association. After a thoro investigation of the laws of all the different states, it was found that the laws of Ohio were the most favorable under which to secure a charter. Therefore, acting under the authority vested in them by the National Dental Association, the trustees of the Research Commission proceeded to incorporate under this charter obtained in Ohio, and changed the name of the Scientific Foundation and Research Commission

to the Research Institute of the National Dental Association, transferring the properties, etc., held in the name of the Scientific Foundation and Research Commission to this newly chartered institution. There has been an apprehension on the part of some of the members of the profession that there was a tendency to centralize the work of research and to gradually depart from the original plans of the Research Commission. This is not true, as every effort was made in the Constitution and By-Laws of the Research Institute to make the tie between the Institute and the National Dental Association insoluble, and if any one will read the Constitution and By-Laws, he will find that it is impossible for the Research Institute to exist severed from the National Dental Association.

During this year a splendid building was purchased in the city of Cleveland and I would refer you to the May issue of The Journal for a complete description of the building, as well as the opening exercises which were held Feb. 7, 1916. This article was written by our General Secretary, Dr. Otto U. King, and is most excellent. It is a building of which we should all be justly proud, costing originally \$75,000.00. The ground on which it is located is worth approximately \$45,000.00. It was purchased for \$50,000.00. Of this sum, approximately \$30,000.00 has been raised. The owner became interested in our work and donated \$2,500.00 on the purchase price.

The following is the status of the building fund:

#### BUILDING FUND REPORT.

May 8, 1916.

	Number of Subscribers	Total Amount of Subscriptions	Total Amount paid to date
Colorado .....	1	\$ 500.00	\$ 250.00
Connecticut .....	1	50.00	50.00
Georgia .....	2	1425.00	.00
Illinois .....	5	180.00	155.00
Iowa .....	7	1525.00	25.00

	Number of Subscribers	Total Amount of Subscriptions	Total Amount Paid to date
Kansas .....	19	660.00	347.17
Maryland .....	1	500.00	500.00
Massachusetts .....	2	110.00	110.00
Michigan .....	6	100.00	100.00
Minnesota .....	1	100.00	.00
Missouri .....	26	672.50	79.00
New Jersey .....	1	5.00	5.00
New York .....	4	790.00	755.00
Ohio .....	210	15010.39	9962.58
Oklahoma .....	16	410.00	120.00
Pennsylvania .....	2	200.00	200.00
Odontological Society, W. Pa.....		250.00	.00
West Virginia .....	22	291.00	1.00
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		\$22278.89	\$12659.75
Special Contribution from the Assignor of property.....		2500.00	2500.00
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		\$24778.89	\$15159.75
Balance to raise.....		25221.11	
		<hr/>	
Purchase price of property.....		\$50000.00	

Respectfully submitted,

WESTON A. PRICE, President.

It was absolutely necessary if the Institute expected any endowments, that it should have a fixed place of business where work could be carried on. Men of means do not endow institutions that are apparently transitory in their character and have no fixed place of business. Individuals or institutions contemplating making endowments must be given opportunity to investigate so as to see that the institution is permanent in character. This was the universal opinion of all the authorities consulted on the subject and the men consulted were presidents and managing directors of the foremost endowed institutions of the United States.

The Institute has two forms of members; one, the Commission members, and the other, permanent members. The charter provides that all the members of the Research Commission of the Na-

tional Dental Association immediately become Commission members of the Institute. The permanent members have been elected from men of prominence in the business, financial and economic world, and are not dentists. These two classes of members constitute the body of the Research Institute, elect the trustees and in every way control the organization.

The Board of Trustees consists of nine members; five of these must be members of the National Dental Association. Thus, you see that a majority of the Board of Trustees who control and manage the Institute must be from the National Dental Association. The laws of the State of Ohio require that the trustees be individually responsible for the debts of the Institute and also require that a majority of the trustees be residents of Ohio. We have been ex-

tremely fortunate in interesting one of the best business men in Cleveland, Mr. E. A. Petrequin, the Treasurer, Mr. Harry A. Crawford, one of the most prominent lawyers in Cleveland, and Dr. George W. Crile, the eminent surgeon. These men, with Weston A. Price, Homer C. Brown, Clarence J. Grieves, Eugene R. Warner, John V. Conzett, and Thomas P. Hinman constitute the Board of Trustees of the Research Institute.

It is believed that our work should be confined more to pathology and histopathological researches. At the present time, we have the following research workers in the field whose work is being partially supported by funds from the Institute: Dr. Marcus A. Ward, University of Michigan, Cements; Dr. Russell H. Bunting, University of Michigan, Saliva; Dr. John R. Callahan, Cincinnati, Root Canal Fillings; Dr. Thos. B. Hartzell, University of Minnesota, Relations of Mouth Infections to Systemic Infections; Dr. Weston A. Price, Cleveland, Ionic Medication Studies; Frederick B. Noyes, Chicago, Peridental Membrane; William J. Gies, Columbia University, The Relation of the Glands of Internal Secretion to Dental Problems; Dr. Percy R. Howe, Forsyth Dental Infirmary, Salivary Deposits; Dr. Frank S. McKay, Colorado Springs, Brown Stain Problems; Dr. F. A. Fahrenwald, Metallurgical Researches.

This is a most interesting array of talent and the work that is being done on the limited income we have is, to my mind, wonderful. There are many other problems that should be handled, and as funds are available, grants will be made by the trustees of the Institute along lines that seem best.

The financial support of the Institute has come from individual members of the dental profession thruout the United States by pledges given on a five year basis. Some of these subscriptions will expire next year and unless they are renewed, the income of the Institute will

be greatly curtailed. I hope, at this time, the House of Delegates will evolve some plan whereby the Institute will receive some more permanent form of income. It has been suggested that one dollar per year be added to our dues, this one dollar to be used for the support of the Institute, and eleven of our state associations have already passed resolutions altering their By-Laws and adding one dollar to their dues to be given for the support of the Institute. If we add one dollar for the Journal and one dollar for the Institute, it would make our dues three dollars, two dollars less than the American Medical. This would seem to be the best way of handling the problem; it will place the Institute on a firm foundation and would amount to five per cent. endowment on \$400,000.00, if we had twenty-thousand members, and I therefore recommend that this be done.

I believe that this Institute will do more to elevate the profession, to standardize its methods, to make it more fully recognized in the scientific field and to benefit mankind than any institute in the world. Wherever the research work has been presented, there has been a distinct impetus given to the organization of study clubs. Cleveland has already organized six such clubs since the Institute was opened. It is pleasing to state that at the present time it is the only institute of its character in the world, and the grand work it has already done has established a place for it in the realms of science.

The bulk of the load of providing funds for the maintenance, the directing of the researches and the managing of the Institute has devolved upon one man and the load has been more than could possibly be expected of one human being. I wish to pause at this time to pay tribute to the noble character, the unselfish labor, the self-sacrificing spirit of one of the noblest men that God ever created,—Weston A. Price, President of the Research Institute of the National

Dental Association. To those who do not know of his work, I would say it is their loss; to those who know him, he is an inspiration. I doubt if there is another man in any profession who would give of his substance and time and devote himself so completely to the success of this work as Dr. Price has done.

There is needed at this time a competent director to give all of his time to the Institute because Dr. Price must be relieved of some of the work. He accepted the Acting-Directorship under protest and as soon as a man is secured to take charge, he will gladly resign, at the same time, offering his help and co-operation.

#### ENDOWED INSTITUTIONS.

In the United States at the present time, we have three endowed institutions:—The Thomas W. Evans Dental Institute, Philadelphia, made possible by the provisions of the will of the late Dr. Thomas W. Evans, an eminent American dentist who lived in Paris; The Forsyth Dental Infirmary for children, Boston, made possible by a gift of approximately two million dollars from Mr. James Forsyth; and the Rochester Dental Infirmary, Rochester, N. Y., the most recent one of the three, which has been founded thru the liberality of Mr. George Eastman. This Institute will cost a half million dollars when completed and will have an endowment of \$750,000.00. I wish to compliment the foresight of Mr. Eastman in securing the services of our own Dr. Harvey J. Burkhart of Batavia, N. Y., in the capacity of Director. It is said that Rochester was the first city in the world to establish a free dental clinic for the worthy poor and it is a distinct compliment to the dentists of this city that thru them such an institution has been made possible.

#### ORAL HYGIENISTS.

The oral hygienists or dental nurses have made a distinct place for themselves in our professional work and I am

glad to report that several of the states have already provided for the licensing of such individuals, requiring examination and yearly registration. They have become a real necessity and I trust in the near future that all of the states will adopt a law containing this provision.

#### ORAL HYGIENE.

During the last year, there has been considerable advance in the teaching of Oral Hygiene in the schools. In the light of this, it would seem that the importance of our work is being recognized more fully than ever before. However, there has not been adopted any standard method of teaching this particular form of preventive medicine. There should be written some small, standard text book on this subject, simple in language and adapted particularly to the graded schools, and recommended by the National Dental Association as a text book on Oral Hygiene for the public schools. I recommend that a committee of three be appointed or elected by the House of Delegates to take charge of this work.

#### MILLER MEMORIAL.

In December, 1915, the Miller Memorial was unveiled on the campus of the Ohio State University. This memorial, a magnificent bronze figure of the late Dr. W. D. Miller, supported on a marble pedestal, was erected from funds contributed by the members of the profession of the United States. It is a fitting tribute to a man who gave his life to the upbuilding of the dental profession. His life was cut short all too soon but his works will live always,—a beacon light to the searcher after truth.

In August, 1915, there passed away a member of our profession whose name is insolubly associated with dentistry and whose works have greatly helped to advance the name of the American dentist. A true scientist, a man greatly beloved,—Dr. Green Vardiman Black, of Chicago, and I recommend that a committee be appointed or elected by the

House of Delegates which shall be empowered to solicit funds, perfect designs and have erected a fitting memorial to this distinguished member of our profession.

#### MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES.

I recommend that the expensive membership certificate that has heretofore been issued to every member of the National Dental Association be discontinued. The cost of printing, addressing and mailing is \$2,000.00, which would pay for two issues of the National Dental Journal, and this certificate does not seem to me to serve any good purpose, as the membership card that is issued by the State Secretary is sufficient identification.

#### MEMBERSHIP BUTTON.

I recommend that a committee be appointed or elected by the House of Delegates to obtain designs and select the most appropriate one to be used as a membership button and present their recommendations to the Board of Trustees; that the Board of Trustees be empowered to make such selection and arrange for the manufacture of the buttons, also regulate the method by which they shall be distributed and paid for by individual members.

#### DENTISTRY IN THE WAR.

It is gratifying to note the wonderful results that have been obtained by the American Dental Corps in Paris. This work has been under the direction of Drs. Davenport and Hayes and we have had opportunity recently in some of our Journals of seeing photographs of the marvelous results that have been obtained in mechanical replacement as well as facial plastic surgery. Work of this character is doing great things to advance our profession in the eyes of the world and it is extremely pleasing to note that this work has been under the direction of dentists from the United States. A number of dental units from

our country have gone abroad and served in this corps for three months each.

I had hoped and expected to have with us at this meeting Dr. George B. Hayes, of Neuilly, Paris, Chief Dental Surgeon of the Ambulance Corps, but the enormous responsibilities of the work and the increased number of cases brought about by the great activity on the Western border, kept him at his post. In his most interesting and instructive letter, in which he expresses his regret at not being able to be with us, he says,—In my wish to be with you, "my principal desires would have been to give the profession a better knowledge of the nature of the work that is being accomplished, not only by the Ambulance, but by similar service in the French hospitals, to create more general interest in the possibilities offered the dental surgeon in this class of war injuries, and to show not only the importance of co-operation between the general surgeon and the dental surgeon but the absolute dependence of the general surgeon upon the dental surgeon in the treatment of these cases where the skeleton has to be re-made before the final plastic operation can be done.

Another object of my visit would have been to endeavor to convince the authorities in Washington of the advantages to be gained by sending over representatives from the army and navy dental corps to profit by the experience offered here, inasmuch as it will be the army dental corps that will be most likely to be called upon to deal in the future with the class of fracture with serious loss of substance.

I feel that the work at present accomplished by the dental surgeon in close association with the general surgeon is offering greater possibilities to the profession than is generally realized; that the opportunity is now being offered the profession to not only force its recognition in work of this kind but also as regards dentistry in general."



**PREPAREDNESS LEAGUE.**

There has been organized in the United States a Preparedness League of American Dentists. Their plans are most excellent and I believe that every member of the National Dental Association should join this organization. Their plans are as follows:—to institute a registration bureau for the dentists of the United States who care to prepare the mouth of an applicant for enlistment in the United States Army or navy so as to meet the requirements for such enlistment. A set of rules is prepared to protect the dentists doing this work from any imposition. No other obligation is entailed than herein stated. It is the desire of the organizers to inform the Surgeon General of the United States Army as soon as possible that this League has at least 15 or 20 thousand members.

It has also originated a plan whereby those needing oral surgical attention caused by injuries during battle, may receive this attention from a corps of specially prepared dentists. Units will be formed in as many cities as possible and clinics will be held on Oral Surgery to train men to look after the new conditions that have been suddenly thrust upon us by the great war in Europe. It is hoped that American dentists who have served on the Ambulance Hospital Corps in Europe will assist in this work.

Members will be active and associate. Active members will join by paying the fee of \$1.00. Associate members register with the League without fee and active membership will be consummated when requested by the League to remit the fee of \$1.00.

Editorial comment in our Journal has been specially commendatory. It is earnestly hoped that those who have not

obtained membership will do so at once. The registration bureau will be found in the armory.

**RECIPROCITY IN DENTAL LICENSE.**

One of the greatest needs of our profession in a legislative way is reciprocity in dental licenses. An advance has been made recently by the adoption in New York State of a new law that not only provides for reciprocity in a definite way but also for the dental hygienists. These are distinct advances and should receive favorable commendation.

I recommend that the Legislative Committee be instructed to obtain copies of various state dental laws and co-operate actively with the Presidents and Boards of these states in an endeavor to arrange for uniform reciprocity.

On the whole, the strides we have made during the past year are notable. I point to them with pleasure and pride, but I should be ashamed if any braggadocio spirit should deem the summit reached. Our past achievements are merely stepping stones, the Heights of Wisdom and Knowledge are always ahead and no man stands still. Either he is climbing upward or slipping backward. As a last word of recommendation, I would urge you to look at past progress mainly as an inspiration to "Come up Higher," and as Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes says,—

"Leave thy low-vaulted past;  
Let each new temple, nobler than the last  
Shut thee from Heaven with a dome more vast  
Till thou, at length, art free,  
Leaving thine out-grown shell by life's unresting sea!"