

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR DENTAL RESEARCH

PROCEEDINGS OF THE TWENTY-FIRST GENERAL MEETING¹

DRAKE HOTEL, CHICAGO, ILL.

March 13 and 14, 1943

COMPILED BY HAMILTON B. G. ROBINSON, *Editor*²

Washington University, St. Louis, Mo.

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I. ADDRESS OF RETIRING PRESIDENT

Charles F. Bodecker, D.D.S., Columbia University, School of Oral and Dental Surgery, New York, N. Y.

It is customary that the address of the retiring president should be brief. This restriction is even more appropriate at this time as the present meeting is the combined event of the Omicron Kappa Upsilon Honorary Fraternity and the International Association for Dental Research.

A few outstanding activities of the past year must be brought to the attention of the Association. The first of these was mentioned by Dr. Schour, president of the Association in 1941-1942. He recommended that the South American

¹ The sessions of the International Association for Dental Research preceded, by agreement, the Annual Meeting of the American Association for Dental Schools, in the same hotel, March 15-17. The members of each body were welcome at, and participated in, the sessions of both Associations. The annual informal dinner, served to 106 members and guests, preceded the concluding session on the evening of March 19. This dinner and the concluding session were held jointly with Omicron Kappa Upsilon and W. H. Wright, president of Omicron Kappa Upsilon, presided.

² The General Secretary of the Association, E. H. Hatton, has rendered invaluable assistance to the Editor of the Association in preparing these proceedings.

republics be contacted so as to found new sections of the I.A.D.R. Present world conditions, however, and the difficulty of correspondence have made it impossible to consummate this objective.

The promise that fluorine will prove to be a means of reducing or even preventing dental caries has been followed. There are a number of methods of applying fluorine as a caries prophylaxis: through the general water supply, in natural foods such as milk, or by topical application to the teeth. The last mentioned method has been publicized in the daily press, resulting in the premature demands of patients for such treatment. Observations are being made in a number of institutions to note the efficacy of topical fluorine application as a caries preventive. Significant data showing beneficial results of this therapy have been presented.

Some members of the I. A. D. R. have been very much perturbed concerning the subject of research on commercial products and the possibilities that the Journal is being used for commercial purposes. There is no doubt that some commercial products require investigation in order to protect the public against unjust claims and also to assist manufacturers who are in search of the truth about their products. The recent unfortunate discussion has brought the subject of research on commercial products to a head. This discussion proves the often observed fact that scientists are notoriously poor business men and conversely that business men do not understand the ways of scientists. It just seems that research and business are as far apart as the two poles.

But to return to research on commercial products. This activity is essential to the protection of the public. If manufacturers are honest in their desire to know the truth about their products, research men should give them complete cooperation. The difficulty is to control the advertising departments of manufacturing firms. The former, being responsible for the successful marketing of the products, publicize only *favorable* opinions but disregard any adverse criticism, thus misleading the public. As a further result, investigators who report on such products, as well as the universities in which they are employed receive distasteful publicity. Steps should be taken by the Association to formulate rules which may be used as a guide in setting up research projects on commercial products.

The problem of abrasive dentifrices is much before the public's attention. Advertisements frighten readers with the grave danger of harming the teeth with gritty tooth powders or pastes. Pictures in weekly journals show that "cavities" form as a result of using an abrasive dentifrice. Some of the audience tonight may possibly say, "What has that to do with research and the activities of a research organization"? The fact is that this subject is important because one of the prime aims of research is to discover the truth and protect the public. If manufacturers, even though honestly believing their own statements, are scaring the public to use only their product, it is the duty of research men to learn the truth. Abrasion is admittedly due to gritty dentifrices and an incorrect method of brushing the teeth. But the *purpose* of advertising non-

abrasive dentifrices is to scare the public; they imply that the "cavity" formation is really serious. All dentists know that in only the rarest instance is a tooth lost as a result of cervical abrasion. Further, the problem of abrasion is not completely solved; gritty dentifrices do not seem to be the only factor in this type of tooth destruction. Our investigations suggest that an acid may be a predisposing cause of abrasion or of erosion.

The duty of researchers in this particular case is clear. In order to protect the public and not have it forced to buy a particular product, the truth must be determined and publicized.

In closing, I wish to thank the officers of the Association for their excellent cooperation and the Local Arrangements Committee for the thorough preparation for the present meeting. Dr. Hatton, our worthy secretary, has functioned well in spite of added responsibilities. The attendance at the scientific sessions was unexpectedly large considering the present world conditions. The interest shown in our meetings emphasizes the importance of research, even in these grave times. All we, as researchers, have to remember is to "pull together," to forget institutional jealousies. The principal purpose of research in dental fields is to relieve the nation of dental caries, periodontoclasia and erosion; and for this purpose investigators of the entire nation should pool their thoughts, their energies and resources.

II. INTRODUCTION OF THE PRESIDENT ELECT

*Russell W. Bunting, D.D.S., School of Dentistry, University of Michigan,
Ann Arbor, Mich.*

Dr. Bunting, a former president of the association, inducted the active officers, all of whom were present, to accept the positions to which they had been elected. The script of the official ceremony served only as a foundation for the spontaneous, very informal and wholly enjoyable transfer of the administration from the old to the new official family. Dr. Bunting pleaded embarrassment in presenting Philip Jay as the incoming president because of his long and familiar association with Dr. Jay as a research colleague and staff member in the School of Dentistry at the University of Michigan, but only because praise due his younger associate might seem somewhat immodest, and capable of misinterpretation to that extent.

This association with Dr. Jay seemed but a very short time looking backward, but their united activities, pointed at a common objective, had really covered a considerable space of time and had represented, at least in the earlier years, a constant struggle for both financial and scientific support for the investigations in which they were literally engulfed. Whatever success had been gained as a result of this work, the speaker must attribute no small part to the help, the enthusiasm, the persistence and great ability of the incoming president of this Association. His attainments in research and institutional activity promised a harmonious and progressive administration of the affairs of the Association. It was, the speaker asserted, a very happy privilege to present his accomplished

associate to the members of the Association and to hand to him the gavel as the emblem of his authority as president of the International Association for Dental Research for the year 1943-1944.

III. INAUGURAL REMARKS

*Philip Jay, D.D.S., School of Dentistry, University of Michigan,
Ann Arbor, Mich.*

In accepting the presidency, Dr. Jay thanked the Association for the high honor that had been conferred on him and for the faith implied by his election in his devotion to dental research and the welfare of the Association. He was very appreciative of the very kindly introduction by his chief and fellow worker, no one was more competent to pass on his worthiness, and perhaps no one was more charitable in the exercise of the privileges inherent in such an introduction.

The speaker was sure that this was not the time nor the place for a long address dealing either with problems of research in the field of dental caries, or with the past and future of the Research Association. Indeed he had been assured by the secretary-treasurer that he was under no obligation to do either and that he might limit himself to such few remarks as might seem appropriate to the occasion.

No one was more conscious of the progressive evolution of the annual meetings and the steady improvement of the quality of the program content than he, but there was, he thought, still great room for further improvement. Quality in the past had been sacrificed in part for quantity; too many items had been accepted for programs at the last minute and just prior to the delivery of the program to the printer. Early submission of items intended for the program would allow ample time for their study by an advisory group selected from the Board of Editors and other members of the Association and the creation of a program of maximum interest and logical arrangement.

In his mind many statements in current literature concerning dental caries are misleading, and especially many of those that have to do with the role of nutrition in caries control. For example both the professional and lay person, in too many instances, have been led to expect very material results from dietary programs featuring high content of minerals and calcifying vitamins. It would seem to be one of the functions of this Association to emphasize quite emphatically the distinction between what are established facts and what are subjects that are still wholly open for further study and discussion.

In a somewhat lighter vein the speaker hoped that future programs and future meetings would be less concerned with dentifrices and tooth abrasion. Discussions and conferences about such subjects for once have been wholly out of proportion to their relative importance and to their significance in the activities of the Association. The Association will do well to assume all responsibility for what has happened in the past even though it may not be altogether happy about some of the occurrences. However, having conceded this, it should forget them but remember to conduct itself from now on so as to avoid invidious criticism.

Activity in research in all probability will be at a low level for the duration of hostilities except for those projects that may have something to do with winning the war. At all hazards the integrity of the Association must be preserved till such time as it may function usefully again. The speaker pledged the services of all the active officers to that end and to the best interests of dental research.

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V. FIRST SESSION: MORNING; MARCH 18; ABSTRACTS 1-8

1. STUDIES IN BONE HEALING. *Warren R. Schram, D.D.S., M.S.D., and L. S. Fosdick, Ph.D., School of Dentistry, Northwestern University, Chicago, Ill.* A 2 cm. section was removed from the ulna of a dog and various procedures followed in attempts to cause bone to regenerate in such a way as to effect re-

* Guest.