

# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR DENTAL RESEARCH

## Proceedings of the Thirty-Sixth General Meeting Hotel Statler, Detroit, Michigan March 20, 21, 22, 1958

I. President's Inaugural Address .....	951
II. Executive Proceedings .....	955
III. Supplement to Proceedings .....	959
A. Financial Statement for Year Ended Dec. 31, 1958 .....	959
B. Report of Retiring Editor of Journal of Dental Research .....	960
C. Report of Business Manager for Journal of Dental Research .....	961
D. Budget for 1958-1959 .....	961
E. Election of New Members .....	962
F. Resolutions and Citations .....	962
G. Future Plans for Journal of Dental Research .....	962
H. Miscellaneous .....	964
IV. "Read-by-Title" Abstracts .....	964

### I. PRESIDENT'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS

NED B. WILLIAMS

*Professor of Microbiology, University of Pennsylvania, School of Dentistry, Philadelphia, Pa.*

This is my seventeenth consecutive meeting of the I. A. D. R. I recognize there are many others here who have longer records and I think they will agree that the sessions have become increasingly stimulating. After these meetings, one always returns to his laboratory or practice full of new ideas or plans, some of which become productive. There is every hope that this and subsequent meetings will be more stimulating, because we are already witnessing the early returns of increased activity in research on a broad scale in dentistry. This was made possible by a decision of Congress in 1956 to give strong support to research in the Health Sciences. It was their hope to reduce the prevalence of disease by greater concentration on research. This action was the culmination of long efforts by many leading professional people and scientists to obtain more financial aid for personnel, equipment, and facilities. The decision was helped to a great degree by the current successes in medicine, such as the effectiveness of the poliomyelitis vaccines, made possible only by basic research. Congress also recognized the need for more information about mental health, oral health, aging, and diverse diseases.

Research in dentistry has been short of personnel and facilities, as well as funds, for many years, in spite of strong demands and a continuing struggle

for better support. The liberal support finally awarded dentistry is attributable to the co-operative efforts of many individuals and organizations.

On the other hand—and this is hard to believe—the availability of the funds *created* problems and shed light on many more.

For example, there was the problem of whether the funds should be used to foster research in the more inactive areas of the country or whether they should be added to the incomes of those already active?

More funds meant more personnel. Where could they be obtained? Very few workers were being trained because of insufficient compensation.

If personnel were found, the increase meant the need for more equipment and more space. How could these be obtained? How could laboratories expand when all available space was already occupied?

Much credit is due the various divisions of the National Institutes of Health, especially the National Institute of Dental Research and National Dental Advisory Council, for solutions to these problems. As a result, many, if not all, dental research groups have benefited. Here are some of the ways encouragement and financial assistance are being offered to undergraduate dental students to gain research experience while in school. The fellowships and other positions now available to students make the annual salary of \$1,800 paid in 1938 look pretty sad, but it seemed a lot to me! Physical facilities which have restricted many research programs are either being improved or new buildings constructed and planned with matching government funds. Our outlook for the immediate future is good.

Just as the liberal arts colleges must begin preparing for a bumper crop of applicants in the near future, we must make plans for disseminating the results of a bumper crop of research work. For this reason, I venture to discuss briefly our communications and our meetings.

The desire for seeking answers to the questions of nature is the main attraction which research holds for most. Some hope for nothing more than a better understanding of nature, whereas others seek answers for specific purposes—prevention of disease, improvement in treatment, discovery of a new drug, etc. All become preoccupied with their work together with the regular reporting of their findings at meetings, such as this one, and by writing papers for publication. In most cases, publication is in a scientific or professional journal, but occasionally the work is prepared for nonscientific or nonprofessional journals. As far as dentistry is concerned, many research reports are presented at meetings of the I. A. D. R. or in the *JOURNAL OF DENTAL RESEARCH*. Reports on dental research are given at other scientific meetings and papers are published in other journals and, although I have no specific figures, I believe this practice is increasing mainly because of the broadening scope of our inquiries. However, with the increase in number of people interested in and supporting dental research, it is likely that neither

our own meetings or our own journal nor other meetings and journals will be able to accommodate the volume of work presented. We must seek ways to increase the number of papers we can publish and to allow more workers to participate in our meetings.

Publication could be improved in the following ways:

1. By increasing the number of pages in the JOURNAL.
2. By publishing monthly instead of bi-monthly.
3. By including in each monthly publication not only a number of standard manuscripts, but also a series of short reports such as are published in "The Proceedings of the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine."
4. By publishing a JOURNAL supplement. An offset or some other process could be used to bring reports to readers' attention rapidly and before they are out of date.

All of this would help, but it cannot be done without more money than we now have for our JOURNAL. We really need a "sugar daddy," if we are to continue to improve the JOURNAL OF DENTAL RESEARCH and its scope.

In spite of some shortcomings, we do pretty well at informing one another and other scientists of the results of our research, but our communications with the public are grossly neglected. Most scientists and practitioners either find it difficult to write for the laity without creating inaccuracies in technical information, or resort to meaningless phrases for fear of being misquoted or misunderstood. An editorial in "Science" this year<sup>1</sup> was directed at the general lack of scientific writing for the public. Warren Weaver of the Rockefeller Foundation believes one ought to strive (a) to advance the knowledge of the uninformed without misinforming, and (b) to prevent the necessary minor inaccuracies from blocking a subsequent path to the truth. In other words, "give 'em the straight dope and no malarky." This twofold goal, he calls "communicative accuracy." It is well recognized that some workers have more facility at this than others. For example, there's a great difference between the reception of the husband who greets his wife with "My dear, when I look into your face, time stands still" and the one who says, "My dear, your face would stop a clock." We must encourage those who are good at "communicative accuracy," if we are to create an interest in the public for dental research. Otherwise, most people will continue to have no idea what is going on in dental research, or even that there is such a thing! I don't believe we will make further major gains in obtaining support for research until we bring more of our results to the attention of nonscientists. The responsibility for this rests on *each of us*. Our annual meetings present an excellent opportunity to let the world know what is going on in dental research. Certainly we have had good publicity, but I believe we could be more thorough and improve it. Besides publicizing our own work, the annual meeting also provides a great opportunity for requesting publicity reports from our divisions and sections

overseas. These could appear simultaneously in their own countries and in the United States, and this, I believe, would help our colleagues overseas join in our meeting.

One last word about communications. The National Science Fairs<sup>2</sup> and other science talent searches have become popular. High school students have devoted some attention to problems in dentistry. For example, the recent Westinghouse<sup>3</sup> talent search had an exhibit on dentistry which gained a place in the top 40! We ought to support such activities whenever called upon; perhaps, we ought to assert ourselves and offer a prize for ideas or displays or experiments in dental research.

During a dental examiners' meeting in Chicago last February, Reidar Sognaes made a statement about the fact that dental research is a well-kept secret. Words to the same effect were offered 20 years ago in the inaugural address by Dr. Gies.<sup>4</sup> If we're ever going to do something about this, we'll have to show more aggressiveness and ingenuity.

The immediate past is noted for our efforts to stimulate interest in and study of the biologic sciences as necessary groundwork for clinical studies. This firm foundation serves as a stimulus for clinical research and is worthy of our support. We need the clinician and the scientist side by side. I refer you to a most interesting article on professional collaboration in an issue of "Science" last year by Vannevar Bush.<sup>5</sup> The part that appealed to me was the thought that, if the scientist is to understand the clinician and vice versa, each must experience some of the problems of the other. He suggested that the clinician visit the laboratory often and, if at all possible, take time off to sit in the laboratory and learn some of its technics and language. The scientist should visit the clinician in like manner. Are our basic science people drifting too far away from the clinicians? Are the clinicians finding it difficult to communicate with the scientist? We have offered a common meeting ground in past years and I hope we will encourage more participation by clinicians.

Lastly, there are too few conferences or symposia on specific subjects in dental research. Our meetings are too tightly programmed to permit get-togethers by special groups. We have many outstanding workers and authorities in our membership, but when do we get to hear them? If at all, it's a 10-minute paper, often with little time for discussion. I believe the time has come to consider at least a one-half day extension of our meeting time, or a 4-day meeting. Such a development, as well as allowing more time for presentation of work and discussion, would allow time for special groups to hold meetings on specific topics. For such meetings we could call on the best people both within and outside the I. A. D. R. The extension would also allow an opportunity to continue co-operative meetings with the American Association of Dental Schools. This liaison with the teachers and school administrators is important, for teaching and research, no less than clinical practice and research, must not be separated. In this regard, we are all looking forward to the program scheduled for Sunday evening.

In conclusion, there are many problems now, and there will be more ahead of us, but with your advice, guidance, and co-operation, we will find satisfactory solutions. Thank you for your kind attention and patience. I hope you'll all be with us again in San Francisco.

#### REFERENCES

1. Weaver, W.: Communicative Accuracy, Editorial, *Science* 127: 1958.
2. Morrey, L. W.: Science Fairs: An Opportunity to Interest American Youth in Dental Science, Editorial, *J. A. D. A.* 56: 402, 1958.
3. Westinghouse Talent Search Finalists, *Science Newsletter* 73: 166, 1958.
4. Gies, W. J.: Inaugural Address I. A. D. R., *J. D. Res.* 18: 235, 1939.
5. Bush, V.: Professional Collaboration, *Science* 125: 49, 1957.

## II. EXECUTIVE PROCEEDINGS

(COMPILED BY DAN Y. BURRILL, SECRETARY-TREASURER)

### *Executive Session I.*

March 20, 1958. 8:00 P.M.

With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order by President Sognaes. The President extended greetings to visitors from outside North America and read messages of greeting to the Association from the Detroit Dental Society and from Edward H. Hatton.

The minutes of the 1957 meeting, printed as *Executive Proceedings* in the JOURNAL OF DENTAL RESEARCH (36: 800, 1957), were approved.

Tellers were appointed to count the ballots for election of officers (G. W. Burnett, Washington, D. C.; S. Wah Leung, Pittsburgh; and Gordon Nikiforuk, Toronto).

President Sognaes reviewed the status of research publications, the increasing numbers of papers submitted and likely to be submitted for publication, and the delay in publication resulting from the volume of material. He acknowledged the sources of support for the JOURNAL OF DENTAL RESEARCH, namely, member and nonmember subscribers to the JOURNAL, commercial grantors providing block subscriptions, and the Supporting Associates whose grants provide extra pages in the JOURNAL. It was announced that the William J. Gies Foundation for Dental Research had just made a grant of \$3,900 for 1958, to be used in the publication of more papers in the 1958 volume of the JOURNAL OF DENTAL RESEARCH. It was predicted that by the end of 1958 there would be a period of only 6 months between submission of an acceptable paper and its publication. Since processing time is around 6 months, the JOURNAL will then be on practically a current basis. It was thought that few other journals could do any better, or as well.

The President reported that, in accordance with the instructions of the members, expressed at the 1957 meeting, the Association had become affiliated with the American Institute of Biological Sciences. The functions of the A. I. B. S. were explained and William G. Shafer was appointed representative from this Association in connection with a forthcoming meeting of the A. I. B. S. in Indianapolis during the summer of 1958.

In a report on the status of our membership in the Scandinavian countries, it was noted that after the election of a very few additional members the group would be eligible for division status in the Association.

The President reported on the 12th Congress of the Fédération Dentaire Internationale, held in Rome, September, 1957, and our relations with the F. D. I. He also urged members to support this organization.

Secretary-Treasurer Burrill submitted a copy of the yearly audit of the books and accounts of the Association (see supplement, A). The audit was accepted. The Secretary-Treasurer reported that with the increase in dues effective for 1958, the Association would be in a sound financial condition. This change will not be reflected in the accounts for 1957. He also reported on the completion of incorporation of the Association (under the laws of the state of Illinois) as a corporation not for profit.