News Bulletin - October-November, 1950

Civil Aviation Medical Association

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On Saturday, October 28, 1950, the Ninth Regular Dinner Meeting of the Eastern Group of the Airline Medical Examiners Association was held at the Lehigh Country Club, Allentown, Pa. It is indeed unfortunate that all of you could not have been with us at this meeting. While he cannot speak for the others present, certainly for the Editor and his wife, this meeting was an extraordinary pleasure which we will long remember.

The active members present included:

Dr. & Mrs. G. S. Backenstoe, M.D.  
Dr. & Mrs. W. C. Baker, M.D.  
E. Howard Bedrossian, M.D.  
D. S. Bostwick, M.D.  
and his mother  
Dr. & Mrs. Joshua W. Davies, M.D.  
Irving E. Fink, M.D.  
Seymour Fiske, M.D.  
Cornelius Kraissl, M.D.  
Robert C. Naples, M.D.  
Henry Rothkopf, M.D.  
Norman J. Skversky, M.D.  
Pres. & Mrs. Wm. B. Smith, M.D.  
Thomas H. Sutherland, M.D.  
Percy B. Wiltberger, M.D.  

Emmaus, Pennsylvania  
Williamsville, New York  
Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania  
Ardmore, Pennsylvania  
New York, New York  
Newark, New Jersey  
New York, New York  
Hackensack, New Jersey  
Washington, D.C.  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Hartford, Connecticut  
Marion, Ohio  
Columbus, Ohio

The meeting received very favorable press notices in the Allentown newspapers including a splendid picture of the current officers for the year.

It might be interesting to you all to quote from the news clipping:

"AIRLINE MEDICAL EXAMINERS MEET"

"The eastern group of the Airline Medical Examiners Assn. of America – the doctors who pass on the flying-fitness of the nation's passenger airline personnel – went on record here Saturday as opposed to proposed federal legislation concerning reorganization of the medical services of the Army and Air Force."
"Representing airline medical examiners in 13 states, 14 doctors in the eastern group held the first of three 1950-51 season meetings at the Lehigh Country Club.

"The proposed legislation, H.B. 8889, would subordinate the Air Force Medical Dept. to the Army Medical Dept. The Examiners are striving to maintain a separate medical department for the Air Force.

"Further discussion of the bill will be held at the fourth annual meeting of the 125 airline medical examiners in the United States May 14-16, 1951, in Denver, Colorado."

It is hoped that more meetings of this type among our members will be held and also that Emmaus and Allentown, Pa. may again be honored by a visit from our active members in the Eastern Region.

FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING

II The Secretary-Treasurer, Seymour Fiske, M.D., New York, New York, reported at our Regional Meeting on the resume of the first questionnaire which had been sent to all our active members on June 15, 1950. The majority of the members voted in favor of holding our next Annual Meeting at Denver, Colorado, in conjunction with the annual meeting to be held there of the Aero Medical Association on May 14, 15 and 16, 1951.

In the discussion which ensued, Percy B. Wiltberger, M.D., Columbus, Ohio, advised the group which was present that the geographical center of our entire active membership is as follows:

First: Indianapolis
Second: Chicago
Third: Cleveland

It is felt therefore that while Denver, Colorado may be quite inaccessible for a majority of our members, nevertheless we will hold our 4th Annual Meeting in Denver in conjunction with the next annual meeting of the Aero Medical Association which is to be held there on May 14, 15 and 16, 1951.

It is hoped that as many as possible will plan to attend both meetings.

HOUSE BILL #8889

III The Eastern Group also brought up for discussion the above House Bill which is to come before Congress at this Session. Discussion of the resolution was actively entered into by all those present. When the lengthy discussion was finished, the resolution was unanimously passed and the Secretary was instructed to forward House Representative Vinson as well as Dr. Meiling and Major General Armstrong copies of this resolution.
AMENDMENT TO THE BY-LAWS

IV Seymour Fiske, M.D., Secretary-Treasurer, New York, New York, brought up the question of the amendment of our By-Laws to permit the membership of duly designated C.A.A. First Class Examiners who may be citizens of foreign countries. After considerable discussion, it was felt that the routine procedure for notifying members of this change in By-Laws should be followed in order that this change in By-Laws could be voted at the next Annual Meeting.

The routine procedure is for two or three of the active members to write to the Secretary-Treasurer recommending that the By-Laws be amended to include First Class Medical Examiners who may be citizens of foreign countries. Will several of you members please write letters to the Secretary accordingly so that this may be brought up for action at our 4th Annual Meeting.

MEDICAL REVIEWS

V Our good party probably brought to my attention this first review offered. It concerns the treatment of acute alcoholic states with ACTH and ACE.

a. In an article by Smith, J. J. (Quart J. Stud. on alcohol. 11 : 190 – June, 1950) the author reported:

1. That five patients treated with ACE for Korsakoff's psychosis responded dramatically in 18 hours.

2. That six patients with delirium tremens received 25 mg. ACTH i.m. q 6 h with extraordinary improvement in 3 - 19 hours (instead of the usual 48 - 72 hours.)

3. Both hormones are equally effective in the treatment of acute alcoholic intoxication.

b. Reference is also made to an article by Pincus, G. and Hoagland, H.; J. Aviation Med. 15 ; 98 (April) 1944. These authors state that Pregnenolone in doses of 50 mg. daily, administered to individuals engaged in actual or simulated flying, resulted in a decrease in fatigue and an elimination of excess excretion of 17-ketosteroids. There appears to be a correlation between ketosteroiduria and stress of work.

May I personally inquire if anyone knows whether or not these statements have been confirmed? Of course, if a bottle of 24 Pregnenolone tablets costs between 12 and 18 dollars, I am not sure how practical this may be at the present time. The editor would also like to find out if the dextedrine type drug has been evaluated for flying personnel, and if the 17-Ketosteroids were affected.
AERIAL DUSTING AND SPRAYING

c. The Editor would like to call to your attention (in case it may have been overlooked) a notice from the editorial columns of the J.A.M.A. (July 29, 1950). This notice calls to the attention of doctors who examine pilots flying airplanes used for aerial dusting and spraying, a release from the C.A.A. on the need for care if pilots are to be protected against the potential hazards of poisoning from some of the newer agricultural chemicals.

This release points out that some of the new agricultural chemicals are even more toxic than those employed in the past and that recently developed organic phosphate insecticides, such as tetraethyl pyrophosphate (TEP), Hexaethyl Tetraphosphate (HETP) and Parathion, are exceptionally poisonous.

(The entire release cannot be quoted here but if any of our members might be interested, it is recommended that the entire article be read as above located, particularly for recommendations as to the protection of the fliers using potentially toxic insecticides.)

AD INFINITEM

VI Your Editor would like to have some news items from each of you. Are you going to force me to turn this news bulletin into an A.M.E.A. Scientific Journal? Please send in your contributions and help me to make this news bulletin more informative.

"Jerry" S. Backenstoe, M.D.

EDITOR