

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW YORK SESSION

MINUTES OF THE SIXTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE AMERICAN
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, HELD AT NEW YORK CITY, JUNE 4-8, 1917

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

First Meeting—Monday Morning, June 4

The House of Delegates met in Hosak Hall, Academy of Medicine Building, and was called to order at 10:10 a. m. by the chairman, Dr. Hubert Work, Pueblo, Colo.

Preliminary Report of the Committee on Credentials

Dr. D. Chester Brown, Connecticut, chairman, made a preliminary report for this committee, stating that the committee had examined the credentials of delegates now reported and found that these credentials conformed to the by-laws of the Association; that the delegates had signed the register, had been invested with the badge of membership and were duly qualified to take seats as delegates to the American Medical Association, and that a quorum had so registered. The report was received and adopted. The chairman thereon declared the House duly organized. (61, 65)

The next thing in order was the roll call by the Secretary.

The Secretary reported that the delegates had registered their attendance.

The next order of business was the presentation, correction, and adoption of minutes of the sixty-seventh annual session.

The Secretary stated that these minutes had been printed, distributed among the members of the sixty-seventh annual session, and no corrections had been called to his attention.

Dr. Arthur T. McCormack, Kentucky, moved that the reading of the minutes be dispensed with.

Seconded and carried.

Dr. John D. McLean, Pennsylvania, moved that the minutes be adopted as printed.

Seconded by Dr. C. E. Cantrell, Texas, and carried.

The chairman introduced Dr. Rupert Blue, Washington, D. C., President of the American Medical Association, who delivered a brief address, which was referred to the Reference Committee on Reports of Officers. (61)

The address follows:

Address of President Rupert Blue, M.D.

To the Members of the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association:

On account of the present international situation and the relation of our government to it, emergencies affecting the Association have arisen which required immediate action by me as President. These actions I desire to report to the House of Delegates. They have related to the need of medical preparedness in view of the danger of our country being drawn into the war.

APPOINTMENTS TO MEMBERSHIP OF STATE RED CROSS COMMITTEES

At the last meeting of the House of Delegates, the Committee on Red Cross Medical Work recommended that the President of the American Medical Association should invite the attention of the state medical societies to the desirability of prompt organization of state and county committees on Red Cross medical work so that the medical profession would be prepared to respond should the country need its services.

With its report, this committee submitted the "regulations of the national committee on Red Cross medical service," embodying the plan of organization of state committees.

As will be seen by consulting this report and the appendix mentioned (Proceedings of the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association, sixty-seventh annual session, p. 63), this plan called for the appointment of state com-

mittees to consist of not more than nine physicians, three of whom should be selected by the President of the American Medical Association, three by the president of the Congress of American Physicians and Surgeons, and three by the president of the American College of Surgeons.

In conformity with the above and on request of the director general of military relief of the American Red Cross, three members were so named by me. Two of the three members named were the president and secretary of the state medical society. The letters of appointment were sent out through the Red Cross. I believe these appointments are in harmony with the purposes of your Committee on Red Cross Medical Work and in the interest of Red Cross organization.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE TO REPORT ON RESOURCES OF ASSOCIATION AND THEIR UTILIZATION IN CASE OF WAR

On request of Dr. Franklin Martin, member of the advisory commission, and Dr. F. F. Simpson, chief of the medical section, Council of National Defense, a committee of three was designated by me to report on the best way of utilizing the activities of the members and the materials represented by the American Medical Association. The personnel of this committee was as follows: Dr. Arthur Dean Bevan, Dr. Alexander Lambert and Dr. J. W. Kerr.

After considering the matter fully, this committee submitted a report, April 21, 1917, which was referred by me to the Council of National Defense. In this report (copy of which is submitted herewith) there is presented a brief history of the organization of other committees variously constituted, relating to medical preparedness and the Red Cross medical work. Attention is also invited to the extent of organization of the American Medical Association, the number of its members, and its facilities for reaching this membership, and the recommendation is made that the President and the officers of the Association offer to the government for the purpose of organizing the medical profession for war the services of the entire organization. I have to request that Dr. Bevan, chairman of the committee, be permitted to read the report in full for your information and for such action as may be deemed necessary. In conformity with this recommendation, I tendered the services and resources of the Association to the government through the General Medical Board of the Council of National Defense at its meeting in May last. I need hardly say that this action met with a very hearty reception, and a vote of thanks was tendered to the Association for its patriotic offer.

SUGGESTIONS TO COMPONENT SOCIETIES RELATING TO MEDICAL PREPAREDNESS

At the instance of the Secretary of the Association, letters were addressed to the presidents and secretaries of component medical societies of the Association, inviting their attention to the need of officers in the medical departments of the Army and Navy and in their respective reserve corps. It was also suggested that societies should consider the number of their members who could be spared for this purpose and the steps that should be taken by societies to safeguard the interest of those who respond to the call of duty.

I need hardly say that the present conditions have no precedent in our generation. In all probability, extensive demands will be made on the country in the present crisis, and the medical profession will have the privilege of contributing largely to meet these demands. The steps taken thus far are only a beginning. I trust the House of Delegates will approve the action taken by me, and that it will specifically authorize its officers to offer to the government, for the

purpose of organizing the medical profession for war, the services of the medical organization, and give to the governmental authorities the assurance that the American Medical Association desires to cooperate in every possible way in this work of the government and with other medical organizations that have offered their services for this purpose.

Address of Chairman of the House of Delegates

Dr. Hubert Work, chairman, presented the following address to the House of Delegates:

To the Members of the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association:

The by-law creating the new office of chairman of the House of Delegates extended to him permission to make suggestions to the House, in writing, at any time.

I construe the functions of this office to be executive rather than suggestive, and prefer not to indicate needed legislation. This will be specifically called to your attention through reports of officers soon to be read and by delegates from the floor.

Cooperation between us will, however, be necessary for effective and economical use of the time allotted for your deliberations.

Rules of order and procedure have heretofore been arranged and adopted, intended to admonish delegates who might become more intent on personal vantage than on the greater good to the larger numbers, and equally to restrain your speaker from arbitrary enforcement of his personal views.

It is confidently expected that with this mutual understanding of a common purpose the letter of the law may never be invoked, but that its spirit will control and no one of us will forget our duty to each other immediately, to the Association we represent eventually, and to the millions of sick which 70,000 members care for ultimately.

To those of you who sit in this House for the first time, perhaps I may say that its rules and mode of procedure are similar to those of other deliberative bodies of like kind.

All routine and new business requiring much time for consideration is referred to committees selected from the floor, who report back a digest of their findings with recommendations.

It is not necessary that these committees report unanimously. Some of the most effective work of this House has been accomplished on reports of minority members of committees.

It is intended that the delegates in this House shall have equal opportunity to be heard, whether representing a state alone or one of the delegations numerically strong; or whether a new member or one long familiar with his opportunities.

The reference committees which I shall later name have been selected so far as possible from geographic location, and from those who by reason of previous service in the House have had their attention directed to the legislative needs of the Association.

The setting apart of two days for uninterrupted work of the House will, I believe, promote thorough work and efficiency.

Heretofore delegates were compelled to forego their section work or neglect their House duties. This work of committees was done by a minority of members, with the result that the Association's legislation has been directed from necessity by its officers and chairmen of reference committees, a responsibility not courted by them nor contemplated by the constitution.

The duties of these reference committees are of the utmost importance to the welfare of the Association, and I would earnestly urge that every committeeman give to this work his very best attention.

Through no dereliction of our profession or of our people, our country, and we are citizen medical men, is being drawn by the logical circumstances toward conditions for which history records no parallel.

The American Medical Association looks to you, gentlemen, its executive guardian and final authoritative body, to direct

its officers whom you elect how to meet this national crisis as an organization.

When war burst on Europe and was later threatened and declared by our own United States, the medical profession with its handmaiden, the Red Cross, was the first called of each country and the first to answer.

The American Medical Association from its membership offered to the cause of humanity the best equipped medical men the world has ever known. Others by the thousand are preparing to follow, many of them sacrificing incomes that seem like fortunes to some of us—duty trained professional men, not tradesmen for hire—for ours is a labor organization which has never discussed the length of working hours or a fixed compensation for service.

As individuals we can cheer those who go forward and hearten those they leave behind, and help each other care for them, but what service the splendidly organized American Medical Association may render as an organization is for you to both suggest and direct.

Reference Committees

At the conclusion of his address, the chairman announced the following reference committees:

RULES AND ORDER OF BUSINESS

G. Wythe Cook, Chairman.....	District of Columbia
H. L. Bartlett*	Iowa
John O. Polak.....	New York
J. W. Riley.....	Oklahoma
J. H. Irwin.....	Montana

MEDICAL EDUCATION

William S. Lalor, Chairman.....	New Jersey
L. W. Littig.....	Iowa
Robert E. Noble	U. S. Army
R. A. Hatcher.....	New York
Dean Lewis	Illinois

LEGISLATION AND POLITICAL ACTION

M. L. Graves, Chairman.....	Texas
E. J. Goodwin.....	Missouri
C. J. Whalen.....	Illinois
Sol G. Kahn.....	Utah
F. W. McRae.....	Georgia

HYGIENE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

William C. Rucker, Chairman....	U. S. Public Health Service
A. T. McCormack.....	Kentucky
John Ridlon.....	Illinois
LeRoy Crummer	Nebraska
E. B. Heckel.....	Pennsylvania

AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Floyd M. Crandall, Chairman.....	New York
C. L. Stevens.....	Pennsylvania
George A. Lund, U. S. Navy.....	New York
Perry Bromberg	Tennessee
M. N. Valdeng.....	Iowa

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

H. G. Wetherill, Chairman.....	Colorado
E. A. Hines.....	South Carolina
B. R. McClellan.....	Ohio
Southgate Leigh	Virginia
A. E. Bulson, Jr.....	Indiana

CREDENTIALS†

D. Chester Brown, Chairman.....	Connecticut
F. C. Warnshuis*	Michigan
C. P. Meriwether.....	Arkansas
H. P. Newman.....	California
C. W. Hannaford.....	New Hampshire

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

J. S. Blake, Chairman.....	Massachusetts
D. E. McGillivray.....	Washington
Alexius McGlannan	Maryland
H. R. Ritchie.....	Minnesota
F. LeM. Hupp.....	West Virginia

* Not in attendance. †See page 65.