

chairman, of Los Angeles, and Drs. Joseph Catton, San Francisco; Michael Creamer, Los Angeles; Junius B. Harris, Sacramento; and Robert V. Day, Los Angeles, was duly appointed, and, much as happened ten years ago, it also went into action in what was almost an eleventh hour campaign.

It is gratifying to be able to give credit to this committee for its efficient service. It performed the work in the same splendid fashion as had been done by the League's committees during the recent years.

The four thousand members of the California Medical Association should be interested to know somewhat more in detail concerning some of the legislative problems which confronted the Committee on Legislation. For that purpose quotations will be made from some recent correspondence with the chairman of the committee. Doctor Shoemaker, the chairman, among other things, stated:

There were introduced into the Senate fifty-seven bills and into the Assembly sixty bills that affected the practice of medicine in the state of California. Some of these bills were introduced by the State Board of Medical Examiners and the State Board of Pharmacy, some by welfare organizations outside the state of California. A great number were introduced by various cults and some by civic organizations. The bills affecting the practice of medicine, introduced by the State Board of Medical Examiners, were reviewed by the Legislative Committee and endorsed. They were represented through Dr. Charles B. Pinkham, secretary of the board, and Dr. Junius B. Harris of Sacramento and Mr. Frank M. Smith of Los Angeles. These bills were promptly passed and very promptly signed by the Honorable C. C. Young, Governor of the state of California. You must appreciate that time is the essence of all contracts; in other words, the bills were passed and signed early in the calendar of the legislature.

A few bills were passed and signed by Governor Young, that had met defeat under Governor Richardson's administration, one in particular making it a misdemeanor to use the title "M. D.," unless so licensed by the state of California.

The Pure Milk Law, Assembly Bill 306, which practically eliminates raw milk in the state of California but does not interfere with certified milk, which is also raw milk, was passed.

The annual tax for doctors' certificates in the state of California, which was reduced to \$1 instead of \$2, was passed and signed.

Some bills were amended. The Cosmetology Bill was amended to exclude such drugs as carbolic acid and bichloride of mercury. The Pharmacy Bill, requiring that every owner of a drug store must be a licensed pharmacist and that drugs could only be dispensed by a licensed pharmacist was amended. This would have worked a great hardship on the country doctors.

Senate Bill 342, making failure to report defective hearing a misdemeanor, was robbed of its sting.

Assembly Bill 1261, giving the naturopaths the license to practice medicine and surgery and also making a separate board, which for the price of \$25 by anyone so applying would have allowed such an individual to practice medicine and surgery in the state of California, was defeated.

Assembly Bill 1214, taking the subject of Orthodontia out of the dental schools and placing it in the medical schools, adding to the overcrowded condition of the medical schools and crippling the dental schools, was defeated.

Senate Bill 851, and Assembly Bill 773, known as the optometry bills, were defeated.

The County Hospital Bill, opening all county hospitals and hospitals where they have Civil Service, in other

words making them accessible to all methods of practice without supervision, and without regard to adequate preliminary education and professional training, as a prerequisite for this right, was defeated.

The Crippled Children's Bill was greatly changed, taking it out of the hands of the welfare division of the state of California and placing it where it should be, in the hands of the State Board of Health.

Senate Bill 60, that came close to the hearts of doctors practicing industrial medicine, passed the Senate with one dissenting vote, but was defeated in committee of the Assembly. Senate Bill 60 allowed the cults to practice industrial medicine, and was very properly defeated.

The members of our Committee on Legislation have not been backward in giving to the officers and members of the component county medical societies much of the credit for the successful results above but briefly enumerated. The thanks of the Association are extended to all who aided in the important work which confronted organized medicine. The end-results attained were worthy of the energy and time given by these many loyal colleagues. Their generous aid should stimulate all members of the medical profession to take a keener interest in these matters in the future.

Let no members of the California Medical Association feel, however, that the battle has been permanently won. Such is not the case. Today, as never before, the scientific and economic standards of organized medicine are menaced from many directions. Sometimes these antagonistic forces emanate from well-meaning but not far-seeing individuals and organizations. Not infrequently they have their origin with those who stand for low standards of professional education and training, or with persons of commercialistic or baser motives.

No matter from what source coming, if the efforts would act in detrimental fashion to the highest and best public health interests they should and will be opposed by organized medicine. To that viewpoint and line of action we are all committed, and to that policy we intend to remain firm.

#### VARIOLA STATISTICS FOR 1926

In this day of enlightenment, and of a civilization of which the Caucasian race is everywhere seemingly most proud, it would be logical to conclude that a scientific fact would commend itself to practically all those persons who had intelligence sufficient to understand the basic hypotheses having to do with the fad in question, and breadth of vision to comprehend the statistical and other evidence having to do therewith.

Jenner in 1796 proved the efficacy of cowpox inoculation, through vaccination, and made it possible for the world to free itself from one of its most dreaded scourges. The carefully compiled and accurate statistics of European and American armies, both in times of peace and war, since the time of Jenner, should convince the most skeptical of the value of vaccination as a preventive of smallpox.

Many persons, however, probably as a result of theories of their own, or which they have accepted from others, seem somewhat reluctant to give the experience figures of vaccination which have accumulated since 1796, that value which practically all well-trained physicians attach thereto.

Osler states that for the United States in 1904,

there were 25,106 cases of smallpox. In 1926 the smallpox morbidity totaled 41,643 cases in our own country.

Among the states, Indiana led with 3571 cases; then came Florida with 2890 cases, and third on the list was our own state of California with 2794 cases. Washington followed with 2413 cases.

Rhode Island and Vermont, however, where strict vaccination laws are enforced, were entirely free of the disease throughout the entire year.

The nearness of California to old Mexico, where vaccination is not thoroughly carried out, and the large influx of Mexicans into southern California, means constantly recurring opportunities for variola epidemics, if a sufficiently large population of unvaccinated persons contact with such carriers.

It sometimes seems a pity that those who conjure up all types of dreadful blood diseases as a result of vaccination, and who hold that vaccination is a remedy worse than the smallpox itself, could not get together and submit themselves to variola infection. The experiment would demand, of course, that such individuals had never been vaccinated. The thought comes to us from time to time that in the long run it might be well if the compulsory vaccination laws were abrogated, physicians advising friends and clients to be vaccinated, and permitting those who hold vaccination to be undesirable and detrimental, to try out their theory. The reappearance of pock-marked faces in our midst might help bring us back to earth, and prove again that diseases such as smallpox are not mere figments of the imagination.

#### CERTIFIED MILK

A few years ago a card for scoring a dairy was practically unknown. The writer aided in formulating the forms first used by the Public Health Committee of the Los Angeles County Medical Association. He remembers some of the excursions on Sundays, when these volunteer inspections by the late Luther M. Powers and the late Stanley P. Black, health officers of Los Angeles and Pasadena, in company with Dr. Fitch C. E. Mattison and himself, took place. He still visualizes the members of the committee leaving their auto, to chase cows out of the head-waters of the Los Angeles River. He recalls their consideration of their own sketches showing how milk houses for the cooling of milk could be economically constructed. Following those early efforts, that committee formed the Certified Milk Commission of the Los Angeles County Medical Association.

Experiences such as these were had by other certified milk commissions throughout the state. The conjoint efforts of these committees from the county medical societies played a large part in educating dairy men throughout California in modern methods of sanitary handling of milk.

\* \* \*

The above comments are made as an introduction to the newspaper dispatch from Washington, D. C., where the annual contest of milk samples

from certified dairies, under the auspices of the Association of American Milk Commissions recently took place. The fact that California has won these prizes for the highest grade milk produced, for four years, and that this production has been in good part due to the members of the medical profession who are on the certified milk commissions of our state, should be a matter in which we all can take pride, and seems worthy of mention.

The clipping referred to reads as follows:

Competing against samples of milk from the foremost dairies in the United States, Adohr certified milk, a Los Angeles product, has been awarded the highest score in the national contest for the fourth successive year, according to an announcement made by the American Association of Medical Milk Commissions at Washington, D. C.

With the products of thirty-three dairies being scored by the officials, the high record of 99.5 per cent carried off first honors in this year's contest. Samples of Adohr milk were expressed to Washington ten days ago, and two days were spent by the judges in examining the entries.

Attention of dairy experts throughout the world is being directed to the milk supply of Los Angeles by its consistent winning of national milk-scoring contests. With the exception of the 1924 contest, when California milks were barred from shipment because of the outbreak of hoof and mouth infection, every national contest beginning with 1923 has been won by entries from Adohr Stock Farms.

#### THE A. M. A. AND THE VOLSTEAD ACT

Without in any manner wishing to engage in a controversy as to whether alcohol is or is not a medicinal element of great value, the Associated Press dispatch, giving the action of the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association should be of interest to members of the medical profession.

The principle laid down that "no law can establish a scientific fact," is one that might well be taken to heart not only by adherents of alcoholic prohibition, but by those who hold to antivaccination, antidiphtheretic serum and similar viewpoints, and who often exert strenuous efforts to bring their own prejudiced slant on scientific matters such as the foregoing into compulsory legislation for all other citizens.

The expression of opinion of the House of Delegates of the A. M. A. in support of the important principle involved is much to its credit. The dispatch to which reference was made follows:

Acting on the expressed principle that no law can establish a scientific fact, the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association voted today to prepare for submission to Congress a bill designed to remove present legal restrictions on the amount of whisky a physician may prescribe for his patients.

The proposition was discussed in executive session and the vote was taken after two hours of debate, which produced a proviso that the proposed measure be framed in cooperation with prohibition enforcement authorities. A proposal that the Association send to its members a questionnaire on the medical value of alcoholic liquors was referred to the board of trustees.

A statement issued at the close of the meeting said the vote was unanimous and declared it the feeling of the organization that "legislative bodies composed of laymen should not enact restrictive laws regulating the administration of any therapeutic agent by physicians legally qualified to practice medicine."