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OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH IN AMERICA

by Henry B. Selleck

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THE HISTORY COMMITTEE OF THE INDUSTRIAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
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**GEORGE ROSEN

*Deceased **Appointed to replace deceased member.

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There was little oratory in support of these and other goals, but individuals and groups went to work in earnest. One of the early acts of the 1934–35 administration was to create the office of president-elect, a foresighted move which not only gave the association an added pair of shoulders to carry current work but assured for each succeeding president a year of practical training as preparation for the duties of that office. This change was incorporated in the constitution at the next annual meeting.

In 1934, too, a committee composed of President Holmblad, Secretary Cheney, and John W. Harvey made a study of the journal *Industrial Medicine* to arrive at a satisfactory basis for continuation of its activities as official journal of the association. Assured of good editorial coverage and continued publication, the association approved a new agreement to re-establish it as a vitally needed service. In June, 1934, *Industrial Medicine* had published the program for the Cleveland meeting; in early 1935 issues, it printed papers and proceedings from the 1934 convention.

Old-time members have never quite forgotten the 1931 annual meeting in Philadelphia, a memorable affair which included two days at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School with Charles H. Frazier and Alfred Stengel and their staffs. Loyal A. Shoudy was one of those who remembered. Reminiscing many years later, he said: "In 1935 I went back and asked Dr. Frazier and Dr. Stengel to take us again. They both said, 'Shoudy, that is the finest group of men we ever talked to. Bring them back.' So back we went to the University of Pennsylvania."[1]

A committee consisting of Loyal Shoudy (chairman), George M. Piersol, medical director Bell Telephone Company of Pennsylvania, Henry Field Smyth, and Mervyn R. Taylor, also of Pennsylvania Bell Telephone, labored long and hard to make the 1935 meeting another memorable success. A letter in Shoudy's files throws an interesting sidelight on the process of getting suitable speakers and papers for such an occasion. It was written in response to a request from Shoudy by Dr. E. H. McIlvain, personnel manager of the Budd Manufacturing Company, and it said in part: "There are certainly enough subjects to concern lots of us, but as most of them are confined to relations with labor, it would hardly be a fitting topic for the attention of physicians and surgeons." *O tempora! O mores!* A letter from President Holmblad to Shoudy late in May said: "Thanks for your efforts in arranging such a splendid program," and went on to inform him that letters of information and invitation were being sent to member and non-member physicians, and that the American College of Surgeons was mailing one hundred copies of letter and program to the management and medical directors of large corporations.

Impetus was given to a sustained drive for membership. The association's attitude, in substance, was this: "Come and see us at work—then you can decide whether this organization deserves your active support."

Those who went to Philadelphia were not disappointed. Attendance was large. Visitors were impressed by the professional tone of the meeting and by the range of industrial medical subjects covered in morning, afternoon, and evening sessions. These included eye protection, dust diseases, fatigue, neuroses and dermatoses, and