THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The latest Academy directory has been sent to the membership. I want to call your attention to the first part of this directory. The first few pages are taken up with the district and state chairmen. These are important in a democratic organization such as ours. Note the name of your state chairman and give him your cooperation in whatever he is doing. He was elected to that office and wants your ideas. Note the name of your district representative, for he was also elected, and by reason of this office is a member of the Executive Board which is the governing body of the Academy.

If you turn to page 9 and following, you will note some changes in committees. This is an attempt at clarification, based on some of the recommendations of the Reorganization Committee which was appointed by Dr. Sisson when he was President. The standing committees were the suggestion of that committee and are seven in number.

The Advisory Committee for Child Health is a purely advisory committee. It has no power except to render an opinion for the Executive Board. Its chairman is the immediate past president and its members are, in almost every instance, chairmen of other Academy committees. Ex officio members of this committee are the Scientific Program Chairman and the Editor of Pediatrics and of course the President. This gives the Executive Board, through the President, the collective opinion of those that are particularly well acquainted with the several areas of work in which the Academy interests itself. It is in effect a cabinet for the President.

The Liaison Committee suggests to the Board the organizations with whom we have mutual interests and with whom working relations should be established. It is also their prerogative to suggest appropriate members who could be made our representatives to such groups.

The Legislative Committee keeps the Board informed on pertinent legislation. The Publications Committee has charge not only of the business side of Pediatrics but of all publications put out by the Academy or any of its committees.

The Scientific Program Committee has as its chairman a member who is paid a nominal sum and who works the year round at his task. His work has been described in an earlier letter. This committee works in cooperation with the Scientific Exhibits Committee. These two committees have charge of the annual meeting only.

The Awards Committee includes a representative from each of the eight districts in
the United States and chooses the winner of the Borden Award and of the two Mead Johnson Awards. These papers are a part of the Annual Meeting.

It is the duty of the Nominating Committee, through its representatives in each of the nine districts, to canvass all the state chairmen to get an opinion of the wishes of the membership within their states as to who should be nominated for President-elect. Each state chairman consults his membership and reports to the member of that committee for his district.

The organizational committees include, first, the Public Relations Committee. This is not a publicity committee but is primarily concerned with better public relations among our membership. It also is deeply concerned with good public relations with other voluntary organizations and foundations working with children and youth, with governmental organizations working with children, and with commercial firms whose good will is one of our great assets.

The Budget and Finance Committee presents a budget to the Board, and it is their concern to see that each division of the Academy that is allocated funds lives within its budget.

The Committee on Latin American Affairs is concerned with anything that has to do with fostering good relations with the membership of District 9. Medical scholarships and fellowships for Latin Americans is one of their projects.

The Committee for Geographical Distribution of Physicians is chiefly concerned with placing pediatricians in the smaller communities. The Committee for the Care of European Children is affiliated with the national organization of the same name. It aids in the examination of children from Europe who need medical care. It functions at the different ports of entry on the east coast of the United States.

Another activity of the Academy which should be mentioned here, even though it is not a committee, is a registry which has been taken over by the central office. It is a clearing house by which any hospital that desires a pediatric resident can write in and get the names of available candidates. As a corollary of this, any student desiring a pediatric residency can write to the central office and receive a list of possible openings in hospitals.

At a later time I will discuss the work of the scientific committees because there is not room here, but it is my feeling that many members do not know the intent of the standing and organizational committees, and a synopsis of this sort would interest you more in the fields which our organization covers.

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