MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE ALAMEDA COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, HELD AT THE HEADQUARTERS OFFICE, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1945, 8:00 P.M.

PRESENT: DOCTORS TEMPLETON, MOORE, WARREN ALLEN, DOROTHY ALLEN, BELL, DICK, HALL, LUM, MAISON, SHERRICK, SMITHIES, TAYLOR, and SHUTES and MR. WATerson.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Harry J. Templeton, the President.

The minutes of the meeting of August 7, 1945 were approved as transcribed.

In the absence of Dr. Harkness, Chairman of the Committee on membership, Dr. Sherrick reported on the application for membership of Dr. DeWitt A. Buckingham. Dr. Buckingham was unanimously elected to temporary active membership.

Under the heading of committee reports, the following was considered:

The Committee on the Distribution of Medical Care

The minutes of the meeting of this committee, held Tuesday, August 24, 1945, were read to the Council. These minutes are attached to and become a part of the minutes of this meeting. There was a great deal of discussion regarding the action taken by this committee and recommended to the Council. Upon motion, the entire problem was tabled for future consideration and action.

The Committee on Newspaper Relations

The following recommendations by the Committee on Newspaper Relations were read to the Council:

"The Committee on Newspaper Relations recommends to the Council that it is essential and prerequisite to all efforts to establish good press relations that the Association provide a background of public protection against overcharges, unethical and unnecessary medical care and surgery, and incompetence, and that the profession find and become united behind a method of applying insurance principles to the cost of medical care."

"It was the sense of the committee that all publicity on the Alameda County Medical Association be cleared through the headquarters office, that the names of physicians be used in their official capacity with the Association or with committees, but never in connection with a medical case."

It was moved, seconded and duly passed that the report of the Committee on Newspaper Relations be accepted by the Council.
The Committee on Public Relations

The following recommendations of this committee were read to the Council:

"Because of its public relations aspects, the Committee on Public Relations determined that it still has a proper interest in this problem, and the following resolution was introduced by the committee, seconded and duly passed: 'The Public Relations Committee recommends to the Committee on the Distribution of Medical Care and to the Council of the Alameda County Medical Association that this Committee concurs in the idea that no publicity be given or action be taken regarding the Permanente problem; that we will watch the progress of the Permanente plan with interest, and that we will regard this as an interesting experiment in the combination of prepayment for medical care with a group practice idea.'

"The Committee discussed the medical-legal problems of the Alameda County Medical Association, and suggested to the Council and the Medico-Legal Committee that a joint committee of the ACMA and the Bar Association be established to consider problems of expert testimony, to provide physicians as witnesses where it is in the public interest to do so, to seek the disciplinary action on the part of the Bar Association in all cases where the nuisance value of a malpractice suit, and no real injury to the patient is the cause of instituting such a suit.'

The recommendation of the committee on the Permanente Plan was, upon motion, duly seconded and passed, accepted by the Council. The recommendation regarding the joint committee with the Bar Association was approved in principle and referred to the Medico-Legal Committee for development and report back to the Council.

The Committee on the Bureau of Medical Economics

Mr. Gerald Hager and Mr. Peter Crosby, attorneys for the Association, were present to discuss the legal aspects of the establishment of the Bureau of Medical Economics. At their suggestion, it was moved, seconded and duly passed that the name of the Bureau of Medical Economics, a profit corporation, be changed to Medical Associates.

Mr. Hager outlined in detail a non-profit corporation, the Bureau of Medical Economics, and presented the Articles of Incorporation of that corporation. It was moved, seconded and duly passed that the report of Mr. Hager and Mr. Crosby be accepted, and that they be ordered to proceed in the organization of the Bureau of Medical Economics, a nonprofit corporation, in cooperation with the executive secretary.

It was agreed to amend the Articles of Incorporation to provide for the membership in the corporation of administrators of the estates of deceased physicians.
It was moved, seconded and unanimously passed that the Alameda County Medical Association donate $4000 to the Bureau of Medical Economics, a nonprofit corporation.

The Editorial Committee

The Council was enthusiastic in its praise of the work of this committee, to the complete embarrassment of the modest editor of THE BULLETIN, Dr. Milton Shutes, who was present.

Post War Office Space Committee

The following recommendations of this committee were presented to the Council:

"There was consideration of the general problem of the provision of office space for returning service members, and it was determined to direct a questionnaire to all members of the Association now in the armed forces in order to learn from each the following: Whether they will return to civilian practice; if so, in what city; in what part of that city they plan to locate; approximately when they believe they will return; whether or not they already have office space available or have made any connections to provide for it; the question as to whether or not they have formed any clear ideas as to their needs; and a request for them to list contracts which they surrendered upon entering the armed forces, and which they would like to regain.

"Another questionnaire is to be sent to doctors in private civilian practice to determine their willingness and ability to share office space with physicians returning from military service, at least until permanent quarters can be found, the questionnaire to include the amount of space that could be shared and during what hours."

The Council approved the preparation of these questionnaires and ordered that the work regarding them proceed immediately.

"Mr. Miller and Dr. Rancor brought a suggestion to the committee that a building be erected in the Medical Center in Oakland to house service men's offices, that it be financed by a number of physicians, and that after their investment is returned to them from earned income, that the building become the property of the Alameda County Medical Association. The committee acted favorably regarding this recommendation, and requested that it be referred to the Council for action and approval."

This question was referred back to the Committee, upon motion, with a statement that the Council is open-minded regarding the subject, but will require full details before approval can be given.
"The Committee recommended to the Council that members of the Association returning from the armed forces be given publicity in the newspapers, and that a suitable announcement should be carried in THE BULLETIN of the Association. The committee did not favor, however, the purchase of advertising space from the press by the Association to announce the return to private practice of these members."

Upon motion, duly seconded and passed, this portion of the committee report was accepted by the Council.

"Acting upon the request of a number of members of the Association in the armed forces, the committee recommended to the Council that the Association petition Congress for the early release of doctors from the armed forces."

In this connection, it was moved, seconded and duly passed that the A.C.M.A. petition Nenada County members of the Congress to do everything in their power to expedite the discharge, as rapidly as possible, of physician members of the armed forces to provide for the needs of the civilian population.

The Council agreed with the committee that contracts and appointments previously held by these returning service members should be returned to them upon their return from the armed forces, and that it be recommended to the members of the Association holding these contracts and appointments that such contracts and appointments should be relinquished to the service member who formerly held them immediately upon his return.

The Council further agreed with the Committee that patients should be referred to returning service members; that it be recommended to Dr. Black that as much of the surgery as possible at the County Hospital be turned over to competent veteran surgeons so that they can "get their hands back in"; and the Council approved, in principle, the recommendation that returning service men be given representation on the Council and important committees of the County and State medical organizations.

"The Committee also recommended to the Council that its name be changed to that of the Post-War Planning Committee, pursuant to the request of the Council that this Committee handle all problems relating to the returning veteran except those handled by the Post-War Benefit Committee."

It was moved, seconded and passed that this section of the report of the Committee be accepted.

It was the opinion of the Council that this committee has done an excellent piece of work, and is to be congratulated for it.
Post-War Benefit Committee

Legal counsel for the Association reported to the Council that the articles of association for the voluntary association being set up to administer this fund will have been completed by September 8, 1945. No action was taken on this report.

Committee to Revise the Constitution and By-Laws

Dr. Moore, Chairman of this Committee, announced that she had appointed Doctors Fletcher Taylor and Dorothy Allen as the other members of the committee. She further reported that she had done a great deal of work regarding this problem, and that the executive secretary had made certain suggestions regarding the establishment of branches, and, further, that a report could be made at the next meeting of the Council. No action was taken.

Committee to Answer Dr. Gilman's Letter

Dr. Fletcher Taylor, Chairman of this Committee, and Dr. Phillip Dick, a member, reported regarding their efforts in this regard. Their reply to Dr. Gilman's letter was read to the Council, and, upon motion duly seconded and passed, was unanimously approved by the Council, and the secretary was instructed to send the letter to Dr. Gilman. A copy of this letter is attached to and becomes a part of the minutes of this meeting.

Unfinished Business

Dr. Moore, the secretary, reported that she had discussed the problem of his membership with Dr. John Dougherty, and that he prefers to take a leave of absence, if such a provision is included in the contemplated change of the constitution and by-laws of the Association.

Dr. Moore reported to the Council that Mr. Harold Huovinen, who was dismissed as attorney for the Association by the executive secretary, does not believe that he has been properly dismissed inasmuch as he was employed by the Council of the Association; that he requests to know if he is dismissed as counsel for the Bureau of Medical Economics only, or for all of the work on the Association; that he still has work he is doing for Dr. Kindall and "the Berkeley group"; that he does not believe that the basis for his dismissal is justified; and, further, that he requests an opportunity to appear before the Council. It was the opinion of the Council that Dr. Moore should call Mr. Huovinen and explain to him that the dismissal had been authorized by the Council and to request of him information regarding the type of work he is doing for Dr. Kindall and "the Berkeley group", inasmuch as none of those present were aware of having authorized such work.
New Business

The Council determined to meet at the Peralta Board Room, Peralta Hospital, Oakland, on Friday, September 14, 1945, at noon, at which time the nominating committee will be appointed.

There was some discussion regarding a group health and accident insurance plan for physicians who are members of the Association. The executive secretary told the Council he had already obtained information regarding such plans. It was, upon motion, determined that the president should refer this matter to the proper committee.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.