

clinical observation of amalgam are obvious. Only gross volume changes can be noted. In all of the restorations made in the clinic with the regular zinc alloys mixed with solutions of sodium chloride, surfaces became pitted within sixty days. Occasionally, one would manifest excessive expansion by a raised area on the surface of the filling. It was quite interesting to observe that where the expansion was sufficient to cause bulging in the center of the Class V filling, no pain was experienced by the patient, even though a cavity lining or other medication was not used.

In comparison, all of the non-zinc

restorations give no clinical evidence of distortion. Occasionally, one of this series presents a very slightly pitted surface, especially where access to the cavity for condensation has been difficult.

It is hoped that this brief report will encourage further clinical research with non-zinc alloys.

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## THE AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION IN 1940-1941, A YEAR OF CRISIS

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**D**URING the past year, the unrest, so apparent in the last decade, has finally crystallized. Since the fabulous days of 1929 and 1930, through the years of the depression, almost no phase of national life has emerged untouched. At the present time, our country is facing an unlimited national emergency that may deepen into the reality of war or may dissolve, more happily, in a renewal of peace.

No matter what the ultimate outcome of these national problems, dentistry still will have many serious professional problems that must be met and solved in the coming years.

It is neither wise nor desirable to say that the decision to be taken by the nation in the coming months will not

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President's Address, read at the Eighty-Third Annual Meeting of the American Dental Association, Houston, Texas, October 27, 1941.

have an influence on the manner of solving the problems of the organized dental profession. Dentistry, as a health service profession, is an integral part of the social fabric of this country, and the pattern of that fabric will be altered in accordance with the decision for peace or for war.

In the last ten years, there have been many changes in the social structure of this country. The unprecedented economic depression; the need for governmental intervention in the providing of necessities of life that we know as relief; the growing assumption by the government of responsibility for various phases of human welfare; the need of production and manpower during the unlimited national emergency—all of these have been threads in this complex social design of the past decade. Many of these changes will continue for years to come to influence definitely the Amer-

ican way of living, and thus they must be considered in planning for the future. No profession can survive and live apart from its own times.

If the dental profession in this country is to assume its proper place in the social pattern as a health service vital to the well-being of millions of citizens, certain problems must be faced and solved by the profession. One of the most important of these great problems demands the organization of dentists into a unified body that can formulate and make effective a sound national policy in the interests of better national dental health. In meeting this problem, the profession has already made great progress. The American Dental Association, the national organ of the profession in this country, now has more than fifty thousand members. This number represents approximately 70 per cent of those who are eligible for membership; a representation second to that of no other similar professional organization.

During the past year, intensive efforts have been made, in connection with matters of dental preparedness, to ascertain the dental population of this country. This information not only will serve as a valuable stimulus to increase the membership, but also, if present plans are carried to a conclusion, will, through the medium of a dental directory, provide data valuable in many activities of professional life.

In the years of growing membership, the prestige and activities of the American Dental Association have continually attracted new members. This prestige must be enhanced and these activities must be continued so that the American Dental Association shall offer to every dentist in this country an opportunity for membership that cannot easily be declined.

The increasing importance and influence of the American Dental Association are no product of scattered and occasional effort. They are the direct result

of many years of intensive planning and work that have been participated in by thousands of members in every state and territory within the United States. They are the direct result of a sound interest in the advancement of dental health for the people of this country; the direct result of the benefits that have been brought to the members themselves through the agency of the American Dental Association.

The American Dental Association supports many activities that have an undeniable influence on the progress of dentistry within our nation. Through its Council on Dental Education, it seeks high standards for future practitioners of dentistry. Through its Committee on Public Health and Education, and through its Bureau of Public Relations, it seeks to increase the appreciation of the public for the valuable health service that dentistry can render. Through its Dental Preparedness Committee, it makes available the resources of the profession in the interests of national defense. Through its Council on Dental Therapeutics, both the public and the profession are protected from exploitation by misinformed or unscrupulous manufacturers in the use of inferior or deleterious dental products. Through its Relief Fund, it provides a measure of security for those of its members who have fallen on unfortunate days. Through its National Health Program Committee, it seeks to establish sound policies under which better dental care may be provided for ever enlarging groups of the population.

The simpler routine tasks of these committees involve tremendous expenditures of time and money. Add to them the projects carried on by many other committees, and also add to them the special problems that have arisen in this period of extreme change, and you will understand more clearly the rôle that the American Dental Association plays in the advancement of dentistry in this

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