Our Convention

THE 67th Annual Convention of our Association will be held at the Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D.C., October 31, November 1 and 2. The theme chosen for the convention this year is "The Military Role in Medical Progress."

Our president, Rear Admiral Richard A. Kern, MC, USNR, Retired, has appointed as the General Chairman of the convention, Rear Admiral Curtiss W. Schantz, Assistant Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery for Dentistry and Chief of the Dental Division, Department of the Navy. The Scientific Program Chairman is Captain Clifford P. Phoebus, Medical Corps, U. S. Navy, Director of the Astronautical Division, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.

There has been an increasing interest in all sections of the convention in the past few years.Credit goes to those who are on the committees and work out the many details months ahead of the meeting so that the persons attending will profit by their attendance. There is much to be learned from the papers presented, the technical exhibits, and the scientific exhibits.

It will be well to jot down the above dates on your calendar.

Medical Television

THE theme of our recent convention, the 66th, was "The Practice of Military Medicine—Broadening Concepts." That theme was fitting in more ways than one. This meeting brought with it one of the latest and fastest growing concepts in medical education and communication—closed circuit color television.

Through the efforts of Smith Kline & French Laboratories, the Association of Military Surgeons for the first time was able to view modern medical developments in color on a 9-by-12 foot television screen. The presentations, arranged by the Philadelphia pharmaceutical firm in conjunction with our own Scientific Program Committee headed by Colonel Frank M. Townsend, USAF, MC, were more than enjoyable entertainment. They were valuable additions to the Convention's scientific sessions.

The programs were well planned and brought about a necessary exchange of information regarding the practice of medicine in a day and age when advances are being made so rapidly that it is difficult to keep abreast of all the modern developments.

Nowhere is this more apparent than in our own field of military medicine. New problems are being confronted and mastered almost daily, on land, water, and in the air, yes, under water, and in outer space.

Recognizing the need to keep abreast of the times the General Chairman of the Convention, Colonel Aubrey L. Jennings, USAF, MC, and Colonel Townsend—through these television facilities—presented a broad insight into the medical work being carried on by our Armed Forces in the race to put man in space. Specialists from Cape Canaveral, the Arctic Aeromedical Laboratory in Alaska, the School of Aviation Medicine at Brooks Air Force Base, Texas, the Missile Development Center at Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, and other installations throughout the United States gave useful and timely demonstrations of their operations.

Seen on the huge screen, these discussions, well complemented with films and other visual aids, permitted a large audience to receive first-hand information direct from the personnel responsible for this work.

This was no easy job. To produce this
program the television staff of Smith Kline & French, well in advance of the meeting, had to travel to these far-flung installations to meet with Armed Forces personnel and decide how the topics chosen by the physicians could be telecast to the best advantage. Many hours of painstaking care went into the arrangement of even the smallest segment of the show.

In addition to the production arrangements, a skilled crew of audio and video technicians from the pharmaceutical company moved into the Capital a week prior to the convention to begin setting up the electronic equipment which was to beam the programs from Andrews Air Force Base to the Mayflower Hotel. Intricate and complex cameras, the world’s largest compatible television projector and an entirely portable studio had to be erected and tested, and a mobile control bus had to be checked out before “air time.”

The procedure was not new to the television staff—even though the presentation was new to the Association of Military Surgeons’ convention. In 1949, Smith Kline & French presented not only the first color medical program, but also the first non-experimental color TV program of any kind ever seen in the United States for the American Medical Association annual meeting in Atlantic City, New Jersey. That program clearly demonstrated the superior medical teaching aspects of closed circuit color television—even though it was seen on 10-inch receiver sets scattered throughout the meeting hall.

The company has made remarkable improvement in its equipment in the ten years that has elapsed.

The Association of Military Surgeons wishes to thank Smith Kline & French for the opportunity to present these widespread activities to its members.

Awards

Each year during our convention we have the opportunity to recognize outstanding service by individuals of the Federal Medical Services. While it is not possible to recognize everyone, for there are many, still we can honor a few through the presentation of awards which have been provided by pharmaceutical companies, our Association funds, and in one case by an officer who set up a trust fund for the purpose.

The Sir Henry Wellcome Medal and Prize is presented to the winner in a competitive essay contest. The Wellcome Foundation in London provides the prize. In another part of this journal the rules of the contest are laid down.

The Gorgas Medal, made possible by the Wyeth Laboratories, recognizes some outstanding work in preventive medicine.

The Stitt Award, established in 1954 by the Pfizer Laboratories, honors outstanding work in the field of antibiotics.

The McLester Award is made for notable work in the field of dietetics and nutrition. This award is made possible by the J. B. Roerig Company.

The Andrew Craigie Award which recognizes pharmacy is presented through the courtesy of Lederle Laboratories.

The Sustaining Membership Award, made through our Sustaining Membership Section, is given for some outstanding work in medical research by a person in the Federal service.

The Major Louis Livingston Seaman Prize, made possible by that officer, now deceased, recognizes an outstanding paper in MILITARY MEDICINE.

The Founder’s Medal is presented by the Association for some outstanding contribution to military medicine or for meritorious service to the Association.

We must mention here two lectures, the William C. Porter Lecture in the field of psychiatry, provided for by Smith Kline & French Laboratories, and the Sustaining Membership Lecture made possible by our Sustaining Members.

The Federal Medical Services are contributing greatly to medicine and its allied branches and it is a great privilege to recognize this work. The Association of Military Surgeons of the United States is justly proud to be the medium through which these contributions are recognized.