

REPORT

from the President

Aerospace Medical Association



At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Association held in Washington, D.C., on September 25, all members were present except Dr. Bedwell, who was unavoidably absent because of a trip to Europe. Attending this meeting and giving us good counsel was our immediate past president Brigadier General Sam White. Many important items were discussed and many were referred to our Executive Council meeting which will be held in San Antonio during the week of November 9. In general it was the feeling of the Members of the Executive Committee that the new organization headquarters in Washington, D.C., had gotten off to a real good start and from the way things look now, from a financial viewpoint, it may not be necessary to dip into any of our bond reserves to continue our operation.

With the change in name adopted at our last meeting, there has been some comment as to what the future will be of the Space Medicine Branch. There are some feelings being expressed that with the change in name there is no need for the separate existence of a Space Medicine Branch. However, within the Space Medicine Branch, there are many of our good members who are interested in psychology and human factors problems. A letter from this group will be submitted to the Executive Council proposing the formation of a Human Factors Branch in the future within the domain of our general organization. It is hoped that the space medicine activities will be continued in the usual luncheon for the space medicine group and an outstanding speaker should be provided for this function at our annual meeting.

There have been some remarks made here and there, and the question raised directly to the President when he was down in San Antonio recently to speak at the School of Aviation Medicine as to whether or not a qualified Ph.D. or other non-medical members can be accepted into full membership. A review of our statistics shows that most of these individuals so qualified have already been received into full membership. This should reassure those in this category that if they are properly qualified there is no reason why a full membership cannot be guaranteed to them in accordance with the recent changes made in our constitution and by-laws.

The discussion at the Executive Committee meeting mentioned above also centered around dues. We are hampered by the constitutional construction at this time from any immediate change in dues to our members. However, we feel an increase might not even be necessary if a concerted membership drive was exerted by all of our members. If each and every one of you would only look around and interest one other well qualified individual in our field of interest to join our society, we would attain our financial goal.

LUDWIG G. LEDERER, M.D.
President