

June 1957

## CONFERENCE GLEANINGS

**The Seventh Annual General Service Conference of AA met in New York April 17-21. On this and following pages the impressions and reports of staff members are presented.**

JANE F. (GSH Staff Member reporting on her first three months)—"I think the incident that touched me most and symbolized the need for our service was a note written in lipstick on a paper napkin. It simply said, 'I need help'—It was enclosed in a plain envelope with the GSH address and the girl's return address. Now we hope there is a new member in a little town in the South from which this desperate call was mailed and to which we sent the applicant."

EVE M. (GSH Staff Member reporting on Group Relations)—"Sometimes the groups just do not seem to understand what we mean, no matter how simple we make our Directory requests for accurate group listings. One group returned the information with this enlightening listing; 'Happy's Body Shop'—no other statistics." Eve also mentioned the disappointment of GSH on results of the recent survey on sponsorship sent out in the "Exchange Bulletin." From a mailing of 7,000 "Bulletins," only 205 groups returned the requested questionnaire. These figures not only make impossible an accurate analysis of the survey but they also clearly indicate that many groups are not aware of the "Bulletin" as an organ of worldwide AA information. Suggestions as to how this bottle-neck can be broken would be more than welcome at Headquarters.

ANITA R. (GSH Staff Member)—"One of my most rewarding experiences this year came at a meeting in which I spoke of my eight years as a Lieutenant in the Navy Nursing Corps. Afterwards two Admirals admitted their similar woes."

LIB S. (GSH Staff Member reporting on Public Relations)—"Public Relations also has a very direct Twelfth Step aspect. At a recent International Conference on Alcoholism held in Istanbul, Turkey, an American friend of AA planted the seed of AA therapy so successfully that at his request five copies of the Big Book and twelve sets of pamphlets were sent to English-speaking doctors all over the world. The most dramatic result was a letter of gratitude from a doctor in Yugoslavia who wrote that he had been striving toward the AA principles of therapy in his group with all patients, and that his groups had named themselves "The ReBirth Society." Now with the experience of AA as set forth in the Big Book and the pamphlets he felt he could work more confidently, and he promised to keep closely in touch with AA here through GSH.

MR. HARRISON (Class A non-alcoholic trustee)—"It disturbs Mrs. Harrison very much that after I have had two cocktails at any party, I always announce I am a member of the Board of Trustees of AA."

HAZEL R. (GSH Staff Member reporting on AA worldwide)—"Last fall an AA from New York City took a trip which included visits to AA groups in New Zealand and Australia. In Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, after a particularly stirring meeting, the Chairman closed the meeting with these words: 'We Australians who live here on the Coral Sea feel a deep sense of gratitude and kinship with those American troops who fought with us and saved so many of us, in World War II, in the battle of the Coral Sea. Now another American named Bill is saving even more Australian lives through this fellowship—we are continually and eternally grateful to America.'"