

August 1958

## DELEGATES' CORNER

from Oklahoma . . .

**WE** just don't have adjectives in our dictionary to describe the greatness I feel from being with you folks and participating in the General Service Conference. The personal, friendly atmosphere is tremendous. This was a great Conference.

The Conference last year was true to form. I have attended lots of AA meetings where everybody was in accord with everybody else—no friction, no action, no nothing—just a good, congenial, agreeing group, and I've known darn well that underneath there were many problems unsolved and felt uncertainty because we weren't about to make decisions as to how, where, or when to start solving these important problems. Last year's Conference was very inspiring, very enlightening, and it gave us all a sense of security. Yet I had a feeling that there hadn't been enough action.

We look forward to being led by those individuals who have charted the course of our movement over the past years. We have begun to



grow up in the grass roots areas. There is no doubt that we are wet behind the ears, but as we have grown we have begun to accept a little of the responsibility given to our care by those trusted leaders of the past. If it is God's will that group consensus of opinion rule, so shall it be.

The greatest problem of an alcoholic—big, medium or small—is that of making a decision. The next biggest problem is trying not to be the big cheese and not to run the whole show as so many drunks like to do. The next problem is to act upon one's decision and formulate a plan for getting the job done. There is no doubt that there was confusion at our Conference, due to a misunderstanding of the above points.

It was easy to see after the first two days of the Conference how much help our movement would need from the Delegates representing the different areas in our country. It wasn't hard to understand what was taking place when we've been told so many times that the group conscience shall be in accordance with the will of God.

We were actually being called upon to place this into action. Yet it was very noticeable that some of us did not want to assume such responsibility. However, I don't think there was a man there who did not realize what was taking place. I firmly believe that after this year's Conference our movement will be-

come very strong. It will take time for the significance of this Conference to reach into the minds of those present. It gives me great faith in the future of our movement and definitely proves that our cause is not done. We have a great deal of work to do in the future. With the constant increase in the number of alcoholics in this country, it gives me an elated feeling when I think of the challenge that confronts us as individuals and as a movement.

I don't know whether I have made sense but I wanted to say in a few simple words that the Conference was magnificent.

*Ruben J., Stillwater, Oklahoma*

from Quebec ...

**WE RETURNED** last night from Quebec City, where we helped celebrate the first anniversary of the women's group called "The Madeleine de Vergierre Group," after the famous heroine of French Canadian history. It was quite an occasion, as I believe it is the first French women's group in the world. The gals now number twenty-six in their group and are apparently doing a swell job.

Our annual French Banquet takes place this coming Sunday and it will be the opportunity to give my first Conference Report. We hope all the Committeemen will be here. I've had my notes translated for me, so will do it in both languages as it is more effective.

*Bess H., Quebec, Canada*