

**Honoring**  
**Clarence H. Kinnaman, M. D.**  
for  
**Twenty-seven Years of**  
**Public Health Service**  
in  
**Kansas**

**K. P. H. A. Dinner**  
**Wichita, Kansas**  
**May 27, 1947**



CLARENCE H. KINNAMAN, M. D.

## HONORING DOCTOR KINNAMAN

In tribute to his many years of valuable public health service in Kansas, Clarence H. Kinnaman, M.D., is the special honor guest of the Kansas Public Health Association at its meeting May 27-28, 1947, at the Lassen Hotel, Wichita.

Through the efforts of Doctor Kinnaman, many communities became interested in full-time local health services, in the early days of public health in Kansas. Since 1922, when he was called to the Kansas State Board of Health to serve as Director of County Health Services and State Epidemiologist, he has been best known as a champion of preventive medicine. His slogan—"Diphtheria Must Go"—became famous. Through his county-wide programs for diphtheria immunization and small-pox vaccination hundreds of thousands of Kansas children have been protected from these deadly diseases, and the case and death rates from them have been reduced to all-time lows. When outbreaks of communicable disease strike any Kansas community—Doctor Kinnaman is soon on the job, with a corps of assistants, to check the spread of disease.

Kansas has reason to be grateful to Doctor Kinnaman—and his colleagues deem it a privilege to honor him.

Fred Mayes, M.D., President  
Charles A. Hunter, Ph. D., President-elect  
Edna Cheney, R.N., Vice-president  
Evelyn Ford, Secretary  
Margaret Metzger, R.N. Treasurer  
and  
The Executive Committee

In addition to the officers, the Executive Committee includes: R. A. Raymond; J. E. Wolfe, M.D.; M. Leon Bauman, M.D.

## CLARENCE HORACE KINNAMAN, M. D.

State Epidemiologist

Kansas State Board of Health

Clarence H. Kinnaman was born June 30, 1869, in Ottumwa, Iowa, the only son of Dr. and Mrs. Horace A. Kinnaman. He attended the public schools of Keokuk, Iowa, and was graduated from the Keokuk Medical College in 1899. After passing the Iowa State Medical Board examination, he started the practice of medicine in his father's office, thus carrying on a long family tradition in the medical profession, and continuing there until October 1, 1917, when he was commissioned as a first lieutenant in the Medical Reserve Corps of the United States Army and ordered to report at Camp Funston, Kansas, with the 89th Division. He was attached to the Division Surgeon's Office, as an assistant to the camp's sanitary inspector. In February, 1918, he was made commanding officer of Sanitary Squad No. 2, 314th Sanitary Train, 89th Division, and the following June was assigned to overseas duty. He received his captaincy in the Medical Corps, May 1, 1919, returned to this country the following July, was honorably discharged on the 29th of that month, and returned to Keokuk, Iowa.

### Heads Full-Time County Health Unit in Kansas

Doctor Kinnaman came to Kansas January 1, 1920, to become health officer of Geary County, the first full-time county unit to be established in the State, a demonstration unit sponsored by the Kansas State Board of Health and the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation. The unit had been started the previous September by an army officer at Fort Riley, with Junction City and Geary County carrying the full expense for eight months. Doctor Kinnaman carried the whole load—no nurse, not even a clerk was detailed to help him. Doctor Andrew Warren, of



the International Health Board, came out to Kansas to see what Doctor Kinnaman was doing. After the inspection, Doctor Warren offered funds from his agency to employ a public health nurse, and a few months later the Red Cross supplied another nurse for the staff. The people of Junction City and Geary County were pleased with the local health service provided.

### **Accepts Position with the Kansas State Board of Health**

On September 1, 1922, Doctor Kinnaman accepted an appointment as Director of County Health Work and State Epidemiologist for the Kansas State Board of Health, heading the Division of Communicable Diseases and Rural Sanitation. This move was made upon the recommendation of Doctor Warren of the International Health Board, whose agency provided the funds to make it possible. Dr. S. J. Crumbine was State Health Officer at the time, and his daughter, Violet, became Doctor Kinnaman's assistant. About nine months later, Miss Anna Coates was appointed as clerk; she kept the books and handled the funds. She left State employment for some time, but returned a few years ago to work in Doctor Kinnaman's office as chief clerk, the position she now holds.

### **Pioneer Work in Starting Full-Time County Health Units**

Although full-time county health departments had been promoted in a few counties before Doctor Kinnaman came to the Kansas State Board of Health, he was instrumental in establishing several new ones. One of the first was Lyon County, which has never lapsed; others included Ottawa, Coffey, McPherson, and Jefferson Counties. He did promotion work in many other counties, and acquaintance with County Boards of Commissioners enabled him to be of service,

in later years, to Directors of Local Health Services in re-establishing some lapsed counties and to establish new ones.

### **Then Came the Storm!**

During the twenty-seven years that Doctor Kinnaman has been in public health work in Kansas—"all has been fairly smooth," he says, "except for the great upheaval, which occurred in June, 1923." It has taken twenty years for Doctor Kinnaman to find the proper descriptive adjectives for this occasion. In the history of the Kansas State Board of Health, which he wrote in the late twenties, and which was commonly referred to as the "Ship Bulletin" because it had a picture of a ship on the cover, he mildly stated that "a cloud appeared on the horizon"—failing to mention that the storm was something of a tornado when it hit.

The excitement all came about with a change of political administration in the State, and the desire of the newly elected Governor, Jonathan Davis, to make a clean sweep of appointments in the state health department, including the Board Members. Because of the political situation, Doctor Crumbine resigned his position at the Board meeting in April, 1923, and the Board appointed Milton O. Nyberg, M.D., as the new Executive Secretary. Doctor Nyberg had not arrived and Doctor Crumbine was still on duty when, on June 18, Governor Davis appointed nine new members to the Kansas State Board of Health. The five old members, whose terms should have carried over were in a somewhat shaky position, as their appointments had not been confirmed by the Senate. However, they had come to Topeka, and had taken their oath of office at the time of the April meeting, when Doctor Nyberg was appointed. The state health department was in the paradoxical situation now of having two Boards, and in many offices, two sets of employes.

There was an exodus of the old employes, including Doctor Crumbine, but before leaving desks, files, and the vital statistics vaults were locked, and keys were taken along. Across the hall from the Board of Health offices, in the East wing, ground floor of the State House, Doctor Kinnaman had his office. But this fact was not known to the new State officials, nor did they know that Dr. Helen A. Moore was serving as Director of Child Hygiene, in an office upstairs. So they were still functioning, with Doctor Kinnaman carrying on the business of the Board of Health, as best he could. Doctor Crumbine would call at an outside window, and Doctor Kinnaman, on the inside, would hand out the mail and give Doctor Crumbine messages and other information.

When employes of the new board attempted to enter their offices and get into their desks by using hammers to break the locks, they were stopped by the State Executive Council, which ordered the office closed and took all the keys, including Doctor Kinnaman's. Then Doctor Kinnaman called Doctor Nyberg, at Wichita, and told him, "If you would like to be Secretary of the Kansas State Board of Health, you'd better come to Topeka right away."

Because of the importance of the state health department to the welfare of Kansas citizens the whole matter of two sets of Board Members and employes was taken to the State Supreme Court, where it received immediate attention. The Supreme Court sustained the old Board Members, held Doctor Nyberg's appointment as valid and ordered old employes back to work.

While the Court was in session, Governor Davis called Doctor Kinnaman. There were bad floods at Wichita, Winfield, and Arkansas City, and the Governor had been called because the people wanted help. He said to Doctor Kinnaman, "You seem to be the only one in the health department who hasn't been dis-

charged—can you go down there?" Doctor Kinnaman said he could, and was instructed to ask Chief Justice Johnston for permission to go. This was given, and before Doctor Kinnaman came back to Topeka, the Supreme Court trial was over.

#### **Transfers to Alabama**

Trouble did not cease for Doctor Kinnaman, however, because one of the old Board members joined the newly appointed ones in an effort to "fire" Doctor Kinnaman, as someone wanted his job. To protect Doctor Kinnaman, the International Health Board wired him to go to Andalusia, Alabama, to attend a training school for health officers, with the idea of appointing him Louisiana State Epidemiologist, a position then vacant, but for the meantime he was placed in charge of a District of 17 county health departments. This was about the middle of October, 1924.

#### **Returns to Kansas**

In December, 1924, the Kansas State Board of Health met, decided that Doctor Kinnaman had never been officially discharged, and recalled him to Kansas. He arrived the very day Governor Davis retired from office. The International Health Board signified its willingness to continue financial aid to county health work in Kansas, providing "political tangles were unraveled."

#### **Devotes Full Time to Communicable Disease Control**

In 1925, Doctor Kinnaman was made Chief of the Division of Communicable Disease Control and State Epidemiologist. In March of that year, Earle G. Brown, M.D., was appointed as Executive Secretary of the Kansas State Board of Health, to take office June 1, 1925, the Board holding Doctor Nyberg's reappointment at the meeting December 18, 1924 to have been illegal, as action was taken without a quorum present.

Doctor Kinnaman's close association with County Boards of Commissioners also stood him in good stead,



when the new product for immunizing children against diphtheria was made available, and he started organizing, as a representative of the Kansas State Board of Health, the county-wide diphtheria immunization programs, in which County Medical Societies co-operated. The same was true in organization of programs for the control of smallpox, typhoid fever, and other communicable diseases. Because of his wide acquaintance over the State, Doctor Kinnaman is today, able to accomplish quickly many tasks, which to a new person would, in some instances, be more time-consuming.

#### **"DIPHTHERIA MUST GO"**

This slogan, was identified, through Doctor Kinnaman, with the Kansas State Board of Health. For many years every envelope that carried office mail had on it a little black map of Kansas, and the slogan—"Diphtheria Must Go." They were not meaningless words.

When diphtheria toxoid was made available, in 1921, Doctor Kinnaman got busy planning the county immunization programs. In previous years, Kansas children, by the thousands, had been attacked by diphtheria, and hundreds of them died annually from this disease. Parents welcomed the protective treatments. In that very year, 1921, there were 7,882 reported cases of diphtheria in Kansas, and 382 deaths from this dreaded disease, which left many children who survived the attack, health cripples for life. But also, in 1921, there were 2,500 children in Kansas who were immunized against diphtheria. In 1922, the county-wide immunization programs were put into action, and in the following year, cases dropped to 2,625 and deaths to 151.

Since 1921, through the county-wide programs, 854,270 Kansas children have been made safe from diphtheria, and many others received the treatments through their family physicians, to all of whom the toxoid was furnished free upon request to the Kansas State Board of Health.

The following table tells the story of Doctor Kinnaman's fight against diphtheria in Kansas:

Year	Cases	Deaths	Immunizations
1921	7,882	382	2,500
1922	4,089	288	7,500
1923	2,625	151	1,000
1924	1,707	88	10,000
1925	1,101	71	8,000
1926	903	49	30,000
1927	1,073	75	75,000
1928	793	61	40,420
1929	919	68	59,580
1930	696	67	13,000
1931	1,156	68	68,335
1932	957	75	70,510
1933	671	54	50,980
1934	551	38	38,615
1935	529	40	32,457
1936	489	42	35,665
1937	373	24	30,052
1938	317	18	30,038
1939	257	8	32,823
1940	250	12	23,955
1941	193	11	29,024
1942	185	7	31,381
1943	216	14	34,618
1944	175	11	34,527
1945	292	19	32,200
1946	366	11	32,090

#### **Other Diseases Reduced**

Doctor Kinnaman's fight against smallpox is a matter of record too. In 1920, there were 3,900 reported cases with three deaths; the following year cases numbered 4,630 with 48 deaths. The latter record must have scared people plenty, for there were 200,000 vaccinations in

Kansas that year, and the next year had only 842 cases but 68 deaths; in 1923 cases dropped to 483 with no deaths from smallpox.

County-wide vaccination programs, operating on the same plan as the diphtheria immunizations, with the co-operation of County Boards of Commissioners and County Medical Societies, were started by Doctor Kinnaman for the Kansas State Board of Health. Since 1920 through 1946, 933,750 persons have been vaccinated against smallpox in Kansas. We have had many years in which no deaths were recorded from smallpox, and in 1946 the all-time low of ten cases with no deaths, was reported.

Doctor Kinnaman is also partially responsible for the reduction of typhoid fever cases and deaths in the Sunflower State. The Division of Sanitation deserves much of the credit—but protection of the people in flooded areas, by vaccination, has been an important factor too in the Kansas record of no cases of flood-borne typhoid for several years. From 1905 through 1920, there was only one year—1919—in which there were fewer than a thousand cases of typhoid fever reported in Kansas, and in most years the record was nearer two thousand cases annually. But after 1921 the decrease began, and morbidity and mortality from this disease steadily declined to all-time lows of 32 cases with one death in 1946.

Along with the free distribution of diphtheria toxoid, smallpox, typhoid, and whooping cough vaccines to physicians in private practice and to local health departments, measles hemoglobin has been made available within the last year.

An important part of the success of Doctor Kinnaman's work has been his ability to keep the medical profession and the general public constantly informed as to the

dangers of communicable disease and methods for prevention. He has a flair for getting newspaper publicity and has made countless talks before all types of organizations. Also, he has helped in formulating protective laws, rules, and regulations for the control of communicable diseases in Kansas.

### **His Pet Hobby**

No story about Doctor Kinnaman would be complete without mention of his fondness for animals—horses, that is. Every spring Doctor Kinnaman makes his annual pilgrimage to Kentucky to see some of the fastest horses in the country taking their exercise at Churchill Downs.

### **His Family**

Of the six children of Doctor Kinnaman and the late Mrs. Kinnaman, three attained maturity; their son, Joseph H., received his B.S. and M.D. degrees from the University of Iowa, and for a time was on the faculty of College of Medicine there, later going into public health as a specialty, in which he has received recognition through a number of responsible positions—he and his wife and their daughter now live on Long Island, N.Y., where Doctor Kinnaman is Deputy Commissioner of the Nassau County Health Department, serving under a former Kansas State Health Officer, Dr. Earle G. Brown; their daughter Ruth, Mrs. O'Malley, who makes her home with Doctor Kinnaman; and Margaret, Mrs. Richard Schulte, of Hollywood California. Doctor Kinnaman has two grandchildren, Mrs. Doris Jean Ward of Lawrence, Kansas, and Miss Corrine Kinnaman, of Hempstead, N.Y. After a short illness, Mrs. Kinnaman died in 1942.

### **Te Salutamus**

For skill, integrity, and devotion to your work, the large measure of success you have accomplished, the

determination and joy of living that have enabled you to overcome some years of indifferent health, the wise council you give so generously from years of experience and study, the many friends you have made for public health, the thousands of Kansas lives you have helped to save through preventive medicine—for all these things, we, your associates of the Kansas Public Health Association, **salute you** Doctor Kinnaman.