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General

PRESIDENT EDWARD J. ENGBERG

Introductory Remarks: Lloyd N. Yepsen

A QUIET glade, a peaceful stream, a mighty summit are nature's gifts to a crowded, jaded, jittery world. When these characteristics of nature's gifts are descriptive of a man, we have but one man—Edward J. Engberg.

As President of the American Association on Mental Deficiency he is unique, for there is but one such president. Soon he will join more than seventy others who have been honored by this Association. Tonight, however, is his night.

Edward J. Engberg was born in Minnesota, the son of a banker and the grandson of a Baptist minister in Norway. Indeed, at one time he had a faint call to the ministry but was the recipient of a stronger call, that of another type of ministry—medicine.

We accept his professional training for it is basic to him as a professional man. His importance in his own community and the community at large is derived from his characteristic as a man. Ed Engberg lives and loves life. His happy, sunny disposition is well known and it is probably true that a diligent search would not enable anyone to find a man who has seen him with a frown, a glower or a glare upon his face. In his youth he was a swimmer of some note and is the proud possessor of many medals won in that activity. He has

been and still is a dog fancier and once owned Ella VonElb and was a prominent member of a Doberman club.

He is a family man, devoted to his charming wife, whom he married in 1917. In true honesty he has said that it would take more than fifteen pages to tell about her and her help to him throughout the years. One daughter, Katherine, is a teacher. A son, Robert, an officer in the United States Army, a veteran of World War II and Korea, hero of Heartbreak Ridge, where he served with the Second Division, receiving the Silver Star and the Croix de Guerre. Robert is now happily back in this country on another assignment.

Edward Engberg is a member of the Faribault Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, the American Legion and the Sartoma Club of St. Paul. He has served as President of the Rice County Public Health Association and Director of the Minnesota Tuberculosis and Health Association; has been a member of the Medical Advisory Board to Selective Service and during the past two years has served as Chairman of the Rice County Medical Advisory Service.

Following his medical training and internship he engaged in the private practice of neuropsychiatry in St. Paul for twenty-three years from 1914 to 1937, except for service in the Medical

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Corps of the United States Army from December 1917 to May 1919. He entered service as a First Lieutenant and was honorably discharged with the rank of Captain. He has served as Superintendent of the Minnesota State School and Colony at Faribault since 1937. The year following his appointment to the superintendency he became a member of this Association and has served prominently on many committees of importance. He is a Past Vice President and served on the Planning Board.

In 1929 he was appointed to the Minnesota State Board of Examiners and served as Secretary from 1930 to 1935. From 1935 to 1937 he was a member of the Minnesota State Board of Health and Vital Statistics.

During his busy and demanding career as administrator and community leader he has found time to make contributions to the professional literature. Among his writings are the following:

Epidemic Cerebrospinal Meningitis, *Minnesota Medicine*—November 1920.

The Treatment of Psychiatric Patients in Private Practice, *Minnesota Medicine*—September 1929.

Palliative Treatment of Tic-Douloureux, *Minnesota Medicine*—April 1935.

Human Hereditary Defects, *Minnesota Medicine*—March 1939.

Sterilization of Mental Defectives in Minnesota, published in Proceedings, American Association for the Study of Mental Deficiency—1939, Volume 2.

The Treatment of Mental Defectives in Minnesota, *Minnesota Medicine*—May 1940.

The Problem of Controlling Tuberculosis in a Public Institution, *American Journal of Mental Deficiency*—January 1945.

In-Service Training for Employees of Institutions for Mental Defectives, *American Journal of Mental Deficiency*—April 1946.

Report of a Threatened Diphtheria Epidemic in an Institution, *American Journal of Mental Deficiency*—April 1947.

A Survey of Papers Dealing with Administration, *American Journal of Mental Deficiency*—July 1948.

Keeping in Step, *American Journal of Mental Deficiency*—April 1952.

(Address given as President of American Association on Mental Deficiency, Middle States Regional Conference, Chicago, Illinois, September 29, 1951.)

His rich contributions to his community and his profession are made through his membership in the following organizations:

Minnesota State Board of Medical Examiners

Minnesota State Board of Health and Vital Statistics

Rice County Medical Society

State Medical Association

American Medical Association

Minnesota Society of Neurology and Psychiatry

Council of the American Association on Mental Deficiency

American Psychiatric Association

Central Neuropsychiatric Association

Diplomate American Board of Neurology and Psychiatry

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Ours, the field of mental deficiency and mental retardation, has been a neglected field. It is true that following the turn of the century and as a result of many community studies and other studies showing the hereditary aspects of mental deficiency there was widespread interest. That period may be characterized as the alarmist period. Then for a long period of time broad activity was not to be found. During the time, however, that some may characterize as the quiescent period the guildlike activity of the American Association on Mental Deficiency and its members continued. Now there is renewed interest in almost every state in the Union and in many foreign countries. Through the activities of our own Association and the many parent groups throughout the land many persons and organizations have been alerted to the problem of mental retardation and there has been an acceleration in the develop-

ment of new programs and the strengthening of old ones.

We are in a new phase, and the future holds bright promise. There are, however, so few who are being called upon to do so much. Men, stalwart men, are needed, men of conscience, of honesty, and of integrity must stand ever alert and use their leadership in this field of mental deficiency and mental retardation. No greater charge can be given a man than to work in this field.

Edward J. Engberg is one of those stalwart men, a man of conscience, of honesty and integrity. He honors us by being our President—I give you Dr. Edward J. Engberg, President of the American Association on Mental Deficiency.

LLOYD N. YEPSEN, PH.D.,
*Executive Vice President,
American Association on
Mental Deficiency.*

In the April issue of the Journal we published "Keeping in Step" by Dr. Edward J. Engberg. We failed to mention that the paper had been presented by Dr. Engberg, as the President of the A.A.M.D., at the Middle States Regional Conference, Chicago, Illinois, September 29, 1951.