Editorial
"Many a green isle needs must be
In the deep wide sea of misery."
—Percy Bysshe Shelley
(From Lines Written among the Euganean Hills)

Never in the history of mankind has necessity been more pressing in its need, or duty more imperative in its call to create, within this present chaos of destruction, citadels of good will from which to combat the forces of evil rampant in the world.

It is therefore of immense importance that all organizations designed to dispense and perpetuate good to humanity will be, during these hazardous times, nourished, strengthened and made more vitally useful, through the spirit and endeavors of their membership. This responsibility calls, even in times of great personal stress and strain, for greater effort, increased devotion, and clear thinking on the part of each individual member. It calls upon all for constant resistance to a pressing sense of futility and discouragement, which present catastrophic events impose. It calls for the exercise, often under harassing circumstances, of courage, fortitude and hopeful good cheer—in a good cause. It calls for the cultivation of common sense—the exercise of proportionate discrimination in the choice of real values, in determining a course of action most sure to serve best the common cause. It calls for restraint in not judging too hastily the force and significance of rapidly changing circumstances—being neither overly optimistic about gains or too pessimistic over losses. Imperatively it calls for faith—an abiding faith in the ultimate triumph of righteousness over the forces of evil. To be productive, such faith must be implemented into constructive service; to be effectual it must be constantly reinforced by resolution to do our part, however small, in efforts to end this terrible and devastating war.

Those entrusted with the guidance of such associations—forced to meet and overcome unparalleled circumstances which threaten to nullify past achievements and jeopardize present progress—may be fortified by the knowledge that agencies for good have in the past stamped out, in some cases, and greatly ameliorated, in others, conditions which, throughout the ages, threatened the freedom and welfare of mankind and impeded the progress of civilization. Confidently then we hold
firm to the belief that through coordinated, well-directed efforts and good will—
present chaos will be reduced to order, intolerable conditions overcome, and this
good earth became a place where all peoples may work together in freedom for
the common good. The immense and vital part all branches of medical service will
play in this continuing task can—because of its greatness—be now only dimly
conceived. They will in very truth be “green islands” in “the wide deep sea of
misery” now encompassing the earth.

Your Board of Trustees, deeply concerned that our Association should do its
full part in this tremendous task, has carefully laid plans to increase efficiency of
service by consolidating all organizational activities in one center. In accordance
with this plan “The Bulletin” will, from now on, be issued from Chicago. Here
it seems fitting and right to pay a tribute of praise to, and express appreciation of,
the devotion and hard work of those of our members, who—literally starting from
scratch—created and developed an official journal, of which we are all justly proud.
Whatever may be the achievement and success of our new Publication Committee
and editor in the future—and on that our hopes are high—the membership will
long remember its debt to our first Publication Committee under the excellent
leadership of its Chairman, Gertrude L. Fife. A purely voluntary effort—and a
great gift. We now turn a fresh page in our history. What is written on that page
will record for futurity the progress of our Association during a time of hard
testing. This new year holds for us all a great challenge—a challenge to meet with
fortitude and cheerful courage, hard and grim days. Let us unitedly resolve to act
as if the success of this year’s program depended for success on our individual
cooperation and hard work. If we do this, confronting difficulties will be overcome,
complex problems will be solved and 1945 will stand on record as a year of great
achievement.

In a wider sense our endeavors will take on the garment of permanency if we
regard our Association as a medium through which may be brought into being
“flowering islands” of fruitful service to enrich the life of our nation. And let us
all daily pray that such “green islands” may increase in number until the world’s
“wide deep sea of misery” becomes a green productive land, wherein free peoples
may work together in creative efforts to cultivate and perpetuate for all time the
arts and sciences of peace—the only sure wall of defense against aggressive forces
of evil.

Agatha C. Hodgins

Chatham, Mass.
Dec. 29th, 1944

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