

AMERICAN BOARD OF HEALTH PHYSICS

Annual Report of the Chairman

May 26, 1969

I. Certification Activities

A. Of approximately 100 eligible candidates, 82 took all or a portion of written Examination #12 on June 17, 1968, at eight locations within the United States. Of these, 67 were candidates for regular certification and 15 were younger health physicists who were granted early admission to Part I of the examination only. Of the 67 candidates taking the total examination, 22 were certified, 28 were declared ineligible, and 17 were judged borderline and have been asked to take an oral examination. Of the latter group, 12 have agreed to appear before the Board in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for an oral examination on June 9, 1969. Eight of the 15 candidates who took Part I, only, were notified that their performance was satisfactory, and that they would not need to repeat this portion when they become eligible for regular certification.

Of the 65 candidates who took written Examination #11 on June 19, 1967, 13 were given oral examinations on June 17, 1968, and 6 were certified. Thus the total number of health physicists certified during the year was 28, six as of June 17, 1968, and 22 as of February, 1969. This brings to 501 the total number of health physicists certified by the Board.

- B. For the third year, local Chapters of the Health Physics Society were invited to present plaques to the newly certified health physicists at one of their regularly scheduled spring meetings. The program proved successful and the new technique for mounting the certificates on a mahogany board under a clear plastic cover provided a handsome plaque which could be prepared with a minimum of delay. This new approach, which was approved by the Board at its 1968 Annual Meeting, replaces the laminated plastic plaques previously used.
- C. As of May 26, 1969, seventy-seven candidates had been declared eligible to take all or a portion of Examination #13 being administered by the Panel of Examiners on June 9, 1969. Of these, 26 were to take Part I, 6 were to take Part II, and 45 were to take both Parts I and II. An additional 9 eligible candidates indicated that they would not take the examination this year. The examination sites and distribution of candidates were as follows:

<u>Site</u>	<u>Number of Candidates</u>
1. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	32
2. Lowell, Massachusetts	7
3. New York, New York	5
4. Rockville, Maryland	10
5. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	9
6. Richland, Washington	1
7. Berkeley, California	2
8. Pasadena, California	7
Undesignated	<u>4</u>
TOTAL	77

II. Changes in Sponsorship and Membership of the Board and Panel of Examiners

- A. Arrangements were confirmed in February, 1969, whereby the American Public Health Association joined with the Health Physics Society and the American Association of Physicists in Medicine as sponsors of the Board. In April, Mr. Kenneth M. Morse was appointed the APHA representative to the Board and will serve a five year term effective as of January 1, 1969. Mr. Morse is with the United States Steel Corporation in Pittsburgh.
- B. At the Annual Meeting in June, 1968, Dade W. Moeller was re-elected Board Chairman, and William C. Reinig was re-elected Secretary-Treasurer, both for one year terms beginning January 1, 1969. Retiring from the Board on December 31, 1968, after many years of distinguished service was Robert O. Gorson. Mr. Gorson played a major role in ABHP activities during his term and his service included two years (1965 and 1966) as Board Chairman. He was replaced by Dr. Lawrence H. Lanzl of the Argonne Cancer Research Hospital who was appointed for a five year term beginning on January 1, 1969.
- C. Robert L. Junkins was reappointed Chairman of the Panel of Examiners for a one year term effective January 1, 1969. New members of the Panel taking office for four year terms beginning on January 1, 1969, were Herbert E. Book, Thomas M. Gerusky, Robert J. Shalek, and Michael S. Terpilak.

These men replaced Donald E. Barber, John Hale, Bryce L. Rich, and Charles L. Weaver. In addition, F. W. Chambers, Jr., resigned from the Panel during the year and Saul J. Harris was appointed to complete his unexpired term. In recognition of the need for close correlation of the work of the Panel with the Professional Examination Service, APHA, Mr. Michael S. Terpilak was appointed Panel Vice-Chairman to supervise these activities.

III. Other New and Continuing Developments

- A. Negotiations with the Bureau of Radiological Health, Consumer Protection and Environmental Health Service, U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, resulted in a second year of financial support of the work being performed for the Board by the Professional Examination Service, APHA. In addition to the preparation of new multiple-choice questions for Part I of the examination (see separate Annual Report of the Panel Chairman), the PES prepared a statistical analysis of the 1968 examination including a comparison of the results of Parts I and II.
- B. Through the efforts of the Secretary-Treasurer, a brochure was developed during the year to describe the activities of the Board, the requirements for certification, and other particulars. It is anticipated that this can be used as an effective tool for promoting the certification program and other Board activities.

- C. Under the direction of the Board Chairman, a beginning was made on a statistical analysis of the records of the 411 people who have taken the twelve written certification examinations administered from 1961 through 1968*. A Research Grant application has been submitted to the U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare for formal support for these studies during the coming year.
- D. In cooperation with the Committee on Education and Training, Health Physics Society, efforts were made during the year to explore the need for and most appropriate action by the Board in assisting in the establishment of a mechanism for certifying Health Physics Technicians. An exchange of letters with The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists indicated no interest on their part in establishing such an activity. Since the major problem appeared to be the lack of a contact point for such activities, this need was brought to the attention of several officials in the Health Physics Society. As a result, some consideration is being given to the establishment of a Health Physics Technician Section within the Health Physics Society. If

*NOTE: The total of 411 is the number of people who have taken the written examination at least once. Where a candidate has taken the examination several times, he was counted only once. Thus the total number of examinations administered is somewhat greater than 411.

established, such a Section could provide a "focus" through which ABHP might act to advise on establishing the necessary program. It is important to note, however, that there is a certain amount of opposition to the establishment of a "Technician" Section within HPS so the problem may remain for some time to come.

IV. Other Activities

- A. Announcements of the activities of the Board were published in all issues of the Newsletters of the Health Physics Society and the Radiological Health Section of the American Public Health Association. Similar reports were carried in the Newsletters of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine.

Additional published articles about the program of the Board included the following:

1. HEALTH PHYSICS, Vol. 14, No. 6, pages 603 - 606 (June, 1968);
2. JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE ASSOCIATION, Vol. 29, No. 5, page 516 (September - October, 1968);
3. JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION, Vol. 58, No. 10, page 1949 (October, 1968);
4. HEALTH PHYSICS, Vol. 16, No. 1, page 105 (January, 1969);
5. ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, Vol. 3, No. 2, page 191 (February, 1969).
6. HEALTH RESOURCES STATISTICS, Report of the Health Services and Mental Health Administration, U. S. Dept. of Health, Education, and Welfare, PHS Publication No. 1509, page 91 (December, 1968).

B. As a follow-up to the 1968 Annual Meeting, arrangements were made with the Executive Secretary, Health Physics Society, to prepare an addressograph mailing list of all certified health physicists. One of the first uses of the list was for the distribution of a Questionnaire to all CHP's soliciting their financial support of Board activities. The specific suggestion was made that each health physicist previously certified by the Board make an annual contribution of \$5 to the support of the Board's program. Approximately one third of those responding voted against the proposal. As a result, the matter was permitted to "ride" and it is probable that the Board will seek other means for financing its program, when and if such support becomes necessary.

C. At the request of their Associate Executive Director, the Board Chairman supplied the American Nurses' Association with detailed information on ABHP certification procedures. Information on the health physics profession was also supplied to Careers, Inc., of Largo, Florida whose staff was developing a brochure on careers in health physics. The brochure, as published, contains an acknowledgment of the Board's assistance.

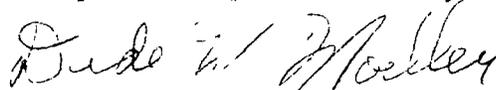
V. Handling of Board Business

A. As a follow-up to the 1968 Annual Meeting, a document (dated October 1, 1968) was prepared on "Suggested Procedures for Selection and Examination of Candidates for

Certification--Oral Examination." It is anticipated that this will serve as a guide for expanding this phase of the examination procedure during coming years.

- B. Since the last meeting of the Board, about 375 individual letters dealing with various aspects of ABHP business were prepared and mailed. In addition, some 500 form letters pertaining to the processing of applications, scheduling of examinations, and distribution of plaques were dispatched.
- C. Expenses of the Board Chairman from June 1, 1968, through May 26, 1969, totaled \$282.15. This included \$209.91 for postage, \$66.71 for travel, and \$5.53 for miscellaneous expenses. It does not include an additional fund of \$3,000 voted by the Board for support of secretarial services to the Chairman during the year. In addition, it should be mentioned that the Board chairman spent about \$500 for computer services in connection with the statistical study described in Section III, C, above. This last cost was covered by a gift provided to the Board by the Harvard University Graduate School of Public Health.

Respectfully submitted,



Dade W. Moeller, Chairman