



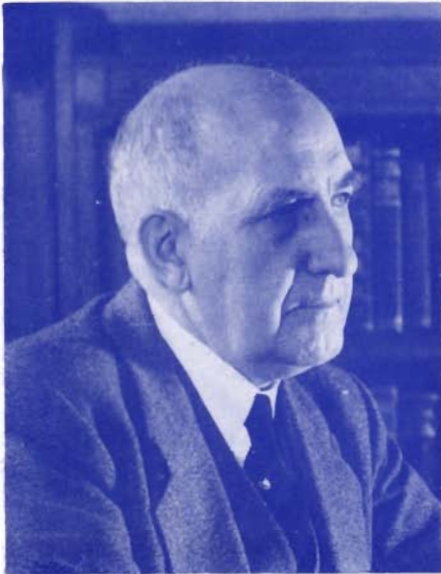
AMHC

Spring 1959  
Vol. II No. I

# NEWSLETTER



## 12th ANNUAL MEETING HONORS DR. BOISEN



Rev. Anton T. Boisen

PHILADELPHIA IS CONVENTION SITE, APRIL 27th - MAY 1st

Five rich and varied days have been planned by Convention Chm. William F. Rogers with the aim of making our 12th Annual AMHC Convention the best yet. In this, he has had the able assistance of the three faith group chairmen, Chaplains Carpenter, Forker, and Hollander, as well as the on-the-spot help of Chaplain Farnell handling the local arrangements. All of our meetings will be held at the Penn Sherwood Hotel, not too far from the APA headquarters at the Bellevue Stratford, or the Convention Hall Auditorium.

Monday morning, April 27, registration at our headquarters is scheduled, allowing for those interested to attend the APA opening session, and the Presidential Address of Dr. Francis J. Gerty.

Our own program begins Monday

afternoon when President Richard J. Lehman calls the meeting to order at two o'clock. Among the opening ceremonies will be Addresses of Welcome by Philadelphia leaders of each of the faith groups. This will be followed by our AMHC Presidential Address.

At 4 p.m., an address by Harold Hildreth, Ph.D. of the National Institute of Health will be given on "Research Methods and Aims," and at 6:30 p.m., the banquet honoring Dr. Boisen will be held, with Flanders Dunbar, M.D., as principal speaker.

Tuesday's program will feature four major papers: 1) Dr. Anton T. Boisen—"Prophetic Inspiration in the Light of Psychopathology," 2) Rev. William P. Sullivan—"The Metaphysical Elements in Philosophy as Factors for

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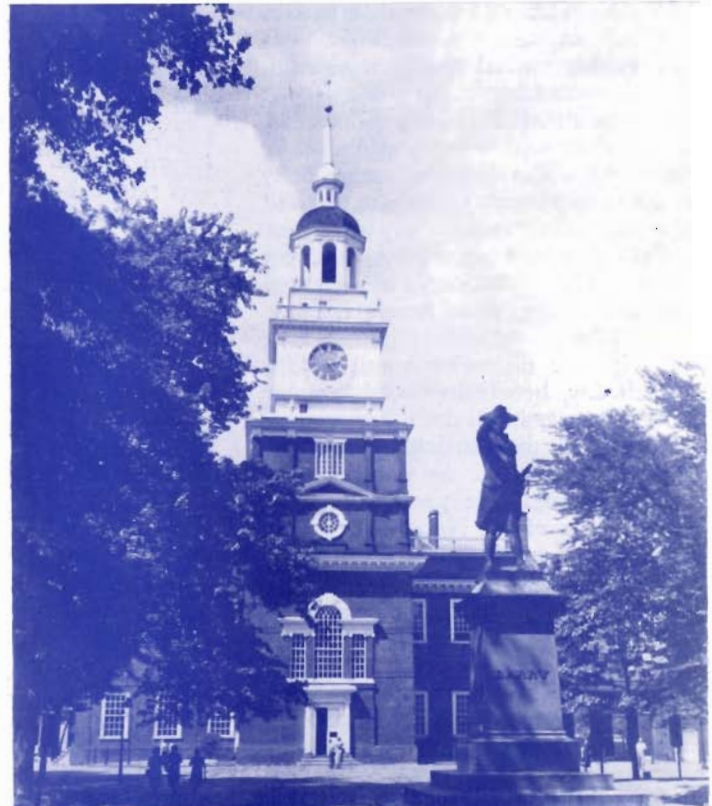
### AMHC BOISEN AWARD ANNOUNCED

On April 27th, the first evening of our convention, the establishment of an Anton T. Boisen Award will be formally announced at a banquet held at the Penn Sherwood Hotel with Dr. Boisen as the guest of honor. The award will be given at unstated intervals to any member of AMHC who has especially distinguished himself in some aspect of his work as a chaplain. A committee of past presidents will be charged each year with the responsibility of formulating criteria and evaluating individual qualifications.

This year at Philadelphia, we will be honoring the man for whom the award is named. The committee planning the event is headed by Past President Quinlan, with former Presidents Andrew and Kempson working with him. The principal speaker at this banquet will be Helen Flanders Dunbar, M.D., who is widely known for her numerous books and articles, as well as her long editorship of the journal of the American Psychosomatic Society, "Psychosomatic Medicine." What is not so well known is that she was one of the four students in the first class of clinical pastoral training that Dr. Boisen ever taught. The time was 1925—the place, Worcester State Hospital in Massachusetts.

The Boisen story is a dramatic one. Some people have heard of him as the young minister who, soon after the close of World War I, had to be hospitalized because of a tumultuous psychotic episode; but who emerged from the experience with some exceedingly perceptive insights into mental illness. He never succumbed to the usual social pressure to cloak this period of his life in secrecy, which in those years would have been more insistent than it is today. On the contrary,

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Historic Landmark in 1959 Convention City

## DISTRICT CORRESPONDENTS APPOINTED

A new device that was utilized this year within AMHC to step-up the level of communication was the appointment of District Correspondents by our Regional Representatives. The number appointed varies considerably from region to region.

Experience thus far has indicated that this system facilitates communication from the local level to national and vice versa. Any Regional Representative, past or present, knows the problem of gathering the news for his column in Newsletter, and how pleased he is to get news items from his colleagues as the dead-line approaches. The appointment of District Correspondents fixes responsibility and thus enhances cooperation.

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY "Mud Thrown is Ground Lost"

## OUR OFFICIAL SEAL

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missing from that meeting. The national treasurer, Chaplain Donald G. Cox, was at that time successfully recuperating from a heart attack. The long hours of quiet rest involved in that process, however, were not wasted. The design of an A.M.H.C. seal absorbed a lot of his attention. The ideas that he finally pulled together and had drawn up came to him only after careful study and considerable experimentation.

The acceptance which his design has received is a fitting reward for his efforts. Most of us saw his drawing for the first time when he brought it with him to the San Francisco convention. Its popularity there encouraged us to test its appeal even more rigorously. Consequently when it met with virtually unanimous acceptance at the Ontario-Quebec regional meeting in Toronto, the Mid-East regional meeting in Albany, and the Capital regional meeting in Washington, D.C., we felt that there was only one more test needed. This we provided when we published March 16th as the last day for all comments on the seal, pro or con, to be in the hand of the President. Not one negative comment was received, and many favorable ones. We rejoice at this accomplishment and extend our congratulations and thanks to Chaplain Donald G. Cox.

## OUR CONVENTION HDQRS.

The Penn Sherwood Hotel  
39th and Chestnut Streets  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Mon., April 27th to Friday, May 1st

## GUESTS ARE WELCOME

at the Boisen banquet (Mon. eve.)  
at the Installation banquet (Fri. noon)

## BOISEN AWARD

(Continued from Page 1)

he felt that his insights, refined and disciplined through further education, could be utilized to enrich his ministry. For this purpose he enrolled in Harvard University, and there won the respect and encouragement of such notables as Richard Cabot, Macfie Campbell, William McDougall and Elwood Worcester. With their help, he came to trust the soundness of the theories he was evolving; namely, that mental illness is a problem-solving experience, and often involves profound spiritual implications too.

The opportunity to translate theory into practice came when he was called to be the Protestant Chaplain of the Worcester State Hospital, due to Dr. William A. Bryan's interest. In fact the effectiveness of his ministry to the mentally ill soon attracted the favorable attention of others. Dr. Richard Cabot had long felt that clergy could profit from a clinical year even as physicians do, and to him, Chaplain Boisen's work was pointing in the right direction. The seminaries became interested, and as was suggested above, the beginnings of our present day clinical pastoral training movement took root at Worcester in 1925 under the Rev. Anton T. Boisen's evermindful supervision.

Through the years, and eighty-two of them have gone by now, Dr. Boisen has continued to be a pioneer in the finest tradition. His kindly influence has been widely felt, in his ministry to the patients at Worcester and later at Elgin; and in his relationships with the scores of students who have been either in his clinical training programs or in his lectures at Chicago Theological Seminary. During these years too, four books and innumerable articles and monographs came from his pen, bringing him world-wide recognition. It is not surprising, in line with this, that academic circles have honored him by conferring two honorary degrees to add to the four earned degrees he has. His circle of friends through the years have included people from all walks of life, including, besides his own professional colleagues, such notables as Harry Stack Sullivan, Frieda Fromm-Reichmann, and Norman Thomas.

The Anton T. Boisen Award will be one that will be highly cherished by every chaplain upon whom it will ever be bestowed, and the Association of Mental Hospital Chaplains is deeply honored to establish this living memorial to our most distinguished member.

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Helmuth, New York

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St. Elizabeths Hospital  
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Local Arrangements Chairman  
Kenneth T. Farnell

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Catholic — Thomas S. Forker  
Jewish — I. Fred Hollander

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Anton Boisen  
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