

Kentucky Surgeon Talks Over Next Year.

BY GEORGE MORGENSTERN.

[Chicago Tribune Press Service.]

Cleveland, O., June 5.—Dr. Fred W. Rankin of Lexington, Ky., was named president elect of the American Medical association for 1942-1943 by unanimous vote of the association's house of delegates today. He will take office a year from now in Atlantic City, succeeding Dr. Frank H. Lahey of Boston, elected president for the coming year at the 1940 convention.

Dr. Rankin, a distinguished surgeon who has been president of the Southern Surgical association, has been chief surgeon at St. Joseph's and Good Samaritan hospitals in Lexington. During the world war he was commanding officer of Base hospital No. 26 in France and is a colonel in the medical corps reserve. He is 54 years old.

Chicagoans Are Reëlected.

Dr. Charles A. Dukes of Oakland, Cal., was elected vice president. All other officers of the association were reëlected. They are Dr. Olin West, Chicago, secretary and general manager; Dr. Herman L. Kretschmer, Chicago, treasurer; Dr. Harrison H. Shoulders, Nashville, Tenn., speaker of the house of delegates, and Dr. R. W. Fouts, Omaha, Neb., vice speaker.

Dr. Ernest E. Irons of Chicago, who was appointed to the board of trustees during the last year to fill a vacancy created by death, was elected to serve out the term during the following year. Dr. Charles W. Roberts of Atlanta, Ga., was elected to a five year term as trustee.

The house of delegates approved policies submitted by its committee on medical preparedness authorizing the government to establish a procurement and assignment agency to meet the call for physicians required for military, civilian or industrial defense needs, and urging that deferment be granted medical students and interns by draft boards in order to maintain a steady supply of young doctors.

Defeat Institute Plan.

At the instance of Dr. Don F. Cameron, of Fort Wayne, Ind., the house tabled a recommendation to approve the establishment of an institute by the United States public health service in Washington, D. C., for the study and treatment of mental and nervous diseases.

Dr. Cameron said that any extension of government activities in the field of medicine would only add to the present swollen federal payrolls and contribute to increase of the deficit. He said that it would also represent a further inroad upon civilian medicine and might serve as a precedent for the government to undertake the study and treatment of many other maladies.

The house also agreed to adopt a watchful attitude on future extensions of the federal veterans' administration, which now has more than 90 hospitals and domiciliary homes with more than 80,000 beds, and is planning new constructions.