

Dr. Scheele begins second term as Surgeon General of the Public Health Service



Dr. Leonard A. Scheele, Surgeon General of the Public Health Service since 1948, took office for a second term April 6, 1952.

Dr. Scheele is the seventh Surgeon General since the position was created by Congress in 1870. Surgeons General are appointed by the President from the regular commissioned career officers of the Public Health Service for 4-year terms. The Senate confirms their appointments.

A graduate of the University of Michigan (1931) and of Wayne University Medical School (1934), Dr. Scheele was commissioned in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service on July 10, 1934. From 1934 to 1936 he was given assignments at foreign quarantine stations in San Pedro and San Francisco, Calif., and Honolulu, T. H. In 1936, he was assigned to the Maryland State Health Department for field experience in public health administration, serving as health officer of Queen Anne's County, Md.

In 1937, Dr. Scheele was assigned to the National Cancer Institute for

advanced training in cancer diagnosis, treatment, and research. After 2 years as a fellow at the Memorial Hospital, New York City, he returned to the National Cancer Institute in 1939 as a member of the staff. There he set up and administered the first cancer control program of the Public Health Service. World War II interrupted Dr. Scheele's cancer control work for 4 years. He returned to the National Cancer Institute in 1945 as assistant director and became director in 1947.

Dr. Scheele's wartime assignments began the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor, when he was assigned to the Medical Division of the Office of Civilian Defense. From 1943 to 1945 he was on detail to the medical department of the Army for duty in civil affairs and military government. His major overseas responsibilities were medical, public health, and welfare planning for civilian populations and control of epidemics.

Dr. Scheele served in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations on the 141 Force planning staff of Field

Marshal Lord Harold Alexander. With the Fifteenth Army Group, he participated in the campaigns in Sicily and the mainland of Italy. He also served on the staff of the Allied Control Commission for Italy.

In January 1944, he was transferred to the newly created Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force, London, as a medical member of staff planning for civil affairs and military government in Northwest Europe. He moved to the Continent after D-Day, with headquarters in Versailles and Rheims, France, and Frankfurt, Germany. Later Dr. Scheele served in Berlin as medical consultant for the Potsdam Conference and in the initial operations of the Allied Control Council.

Dr. Scheele was the chief delegate of the United States to the World Health Assembly meetings in 1949, 1950, and 1951, and is serving in that capacity at the Fifth World Health Assembly now meeting in Geneva. He was elected president of the Fourth World Health Assembly, 1951.

Surgeons General of the United States Public Health Service

Terms of Office

John Maynard Woodworth, M.D. <i>April 1871-March 1879</i>	Rupert Blue, M.D. <i>January 1912-January 1920</i>
John B. Hamilton, M.D. <i>April 1879-June 1891</i>	Hugh Smith Cumming, M.D. <i>March 1920-January 1936</i>
Walter Wyman, M.D. <i>June 1891-November 1911</i>	Thomas Parran, M.D. <i>April 1936-April 1948</i>
Leonard A. Scheele, M.D., <i>April 1948-</i>	

Biographical sketches are given in "The U. S. Public Health Service, 1798-1950," by R. C. Williams, Washington, D. C., Commissioned Officers Association of the U. S. Public Health Service, 1951, pp. 472-488.