

Police Flying Club. It is to me a distinct pleasure that members of our law enforcement group are taking so serious an interest in aviation. The time will undoubtedly come when air police will be of vital need in the life of this country—not only as specifically applied to local communities but as pertaining to the state and the nation. No one knows when emergencies may arise demanding authorized police officers at the controls of aircraft. Emergencies may even in time demand use of whatever planes are available in secret investigational work, and at such times if our Oakland Police Department can furnish trained flyers the benefit will be great.

Fire Department Activities

The most excellent service rendered by the Oakland Fire Department is almost too well known for me to commend upon at length in this writing. Fire insurance rates for the City of Oakland being among the lowest in the United States of America, are proof of this. The Fire Prevention Bureau, also, performs high services and is an invaluable adjunct of the main department. The Board of Condemnation, in the year 1929, has continued the active service that has been maintained since its organization in 1923. The board meets monthly and during the past year has acted upon 106 buildings. Of these, 73 were immediately torn down, 4 were removed, 5 were repaired, and 24 are still pending generally due to the fact that the properties are in process of probate. During the same period 106 buildings were taken down without action from the board save by letters calling the owners' attention to the condition of the property.

Central Fire Station

It has long been my belief that the central fire station now on the ground floor of the city hall should be moved to a location less congested by traffic and where the sudden and oft sounding screams of the starting fire apparatus would not disturb every office in the city hall. Under present conditions at every alarm the warning sirens on the streets and on the fire apparatus in the heart of our downtown district practically stop business—the din deafens every office on the southern and eastern faces of the city hall, in the streets 10,000 persons halt in their tracks to watch the approaching fire engines, traffic is held up and great hazard to pedestrians and automobilists created. I most strongly advocate removing the fire department from the city hall and the conversion of the space now used by it into offices for the conduct of municipal business.

Health and Sanitation

Oakland's remarkably high standard of health was maintained under the direction of Dr. Chas. R. Fancher, former Health Officer, now Commissioner. Under his leadership all branches of the Public Health Service have been thoroughly reorganized and all personnel inspired to a larger and more public spirited view of their duties.

Oakland leads the country in the matter of low infant mortality rates. The country average of infant mortality is 68 out of every 1,000 babies born. Oakland's rate is only 47. Cleanliness and properly directed health and sanitation methods are of great importance in saving infant life. At the same time there is no city whose climatic conditions are more healthful than Oakland's, including small temperature fluctuations and average temperature weather, or have so marked an effect in reducing infant mortality as well as in maintaining high adult health conditions.

Largely responsible for the above situation are the concentrated efforts that were made during 1929 to raise the standard of all food products sold and the sanitation of food handling places. This work demands routine inspection of groceries, delicatessens, dairies, bakeries, confectioners, restaurants, canneries, food manufacturers, wagons, vehicles, and all other places where food is handled or is sold to the public. Stress was laid upon the general sanitation of the stores and the methods of handling