



VOLUME VIII

**FEBRUARY**

NUMBER IX



# NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNCIL



APPARENTLY an unique phase of AA activity is the Northern California Council. The Council meets four times each year for serious business, for knowledge of new approaches to AA, for renewal of old acquaintances . . . and for making a bit of sane and sober whoopee.

Conceived at a meeting of the Oakland Alano Club on March 23, 1948, the first Council was attended by interested AAs from most of the counties of the North. Since that first meeting the Council has been held in Sacramento, Stockton, San Jose, Vallejo, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, San Mateo, Monterey-Pacific Grove, Oakland and San Francisco. On two occasions it has been called upon to make arrangements for special events . . . Bill's visit last Fall for the General Service Conference Assembly, to elect a delegate to the Conference. Then again in October, 1951 to arrange for a meeting held, "in gratitude for the Lasker Award." Although this is a loosely knit organization, it is constructed so that calls such as these can be answered quickly and effectively.

The loose structure of the Coun-

cil consists simply of a representative selected by each participating group. These men and women conduct the discussions and the business of the Northern California Council.

At the beginning and in line with the early-day thinking in San Francisco, the Council meetings were closed to AAs only. During the past five years, however, the trend has changed toward open meetings so that now, at the annual meetings more than 3000 AAs and their families and friends have been reported as those present. Attendance at the quarterly sessions has run up to more than 400.

The format of The Northern California Council is simple. An overall topic is usually chosen for each Council. Speakers are selected from the cities participating, who give their interpretations of different phases of the chosen subject. One of the outstanding features of the meeting is an hour's discussion of group problems. At times this has become quite hectic as members throw their views and problems out for discussion. Each group participating sends two official delegates, who are the only speakers recognized at the discussion sessions.

The fifth Annual Conference will be held next month in Sacramento, in conjunction with the Assembly called to select the delegates and the committee for Panel Two of the General Service Conference.