

without justification. And so, here briefly is the firemen's training record of my State.

There are only 282 volunteer fire departments and four fully paid fire departments in Maryland. Of these, more than 75 per cent will have men in training in any given year, which is a good percentage of our potential. More than 2,000 firemen engage in firemanship training every year. This, on a statewide per-company basis, is a sizeable number.

As another concrete example of the emphasis we place on fire protection, let me point out that the University of Maryland has established a four-year residence program, leading to a Bachelor of Science degree in fire protection. This program, now in its junior year, is headed by Professor John L. Bryan, who spoke to you last year on "The Psychology of Panic."

An indication of the scope of this program is to be found in the fact that the Eastern Underwriters Association will sponsor up to 60 scholarships in fire protection. Other scholarships were granted previously by the Maryland State Fireman's Association, the Ladies Auxiliary to the Maryland State Firemen's Association and the Prince George's and Anne Arundel County Volunteer Firemen's Associations. This action on the part of Maryland firemen in providing scholarships to prospective students for fire training shows clearly that firemen are conscious of the need for better education in our field. Here again we see that we have indeed come a long way. And now the question arises: Where do we go from here?

The brightest spot on the horizon is the increasing interest among Maryland firemen in fire prevention. Baltimore City has initiated an excellent program of in-service inspections which have as their purpose the elimination of fire hazards. The training these Baltimore firemen undergo before they go out to make inspections is, incidentally, of the highest quality.

The Maryland State Firemen's Association, under President Howard Springer, has embarked upon a determined program to make fire prevention activities among fire departments of Maryland a statewide activity.

We firemen have an annual trophy for superiority in fire prevention in our State, known as the Venemann Trophy. The competition each year is keen and widespread. But the finest thing about fire prevention contests is that finally the citizens of the State are the winners—not the fire department which gets its name inscribed upon a cup.