

BULLETIN

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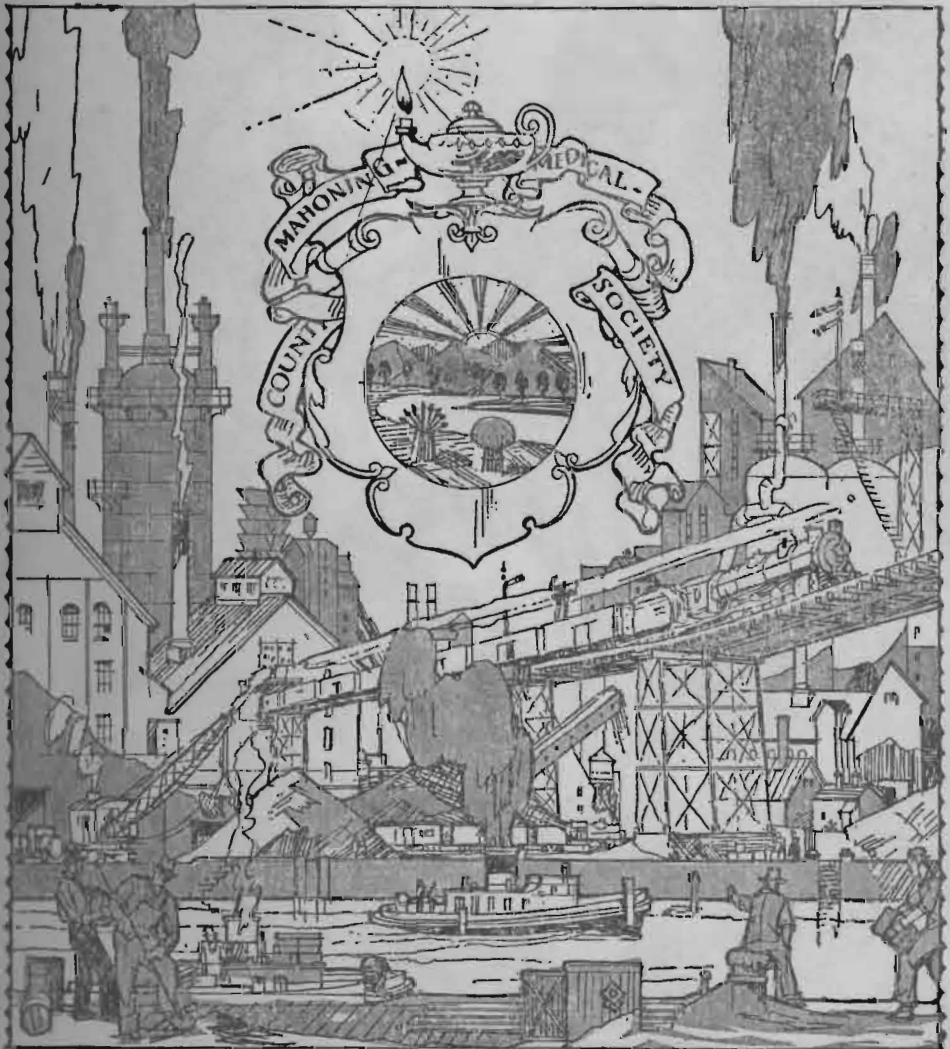
MAHONING COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

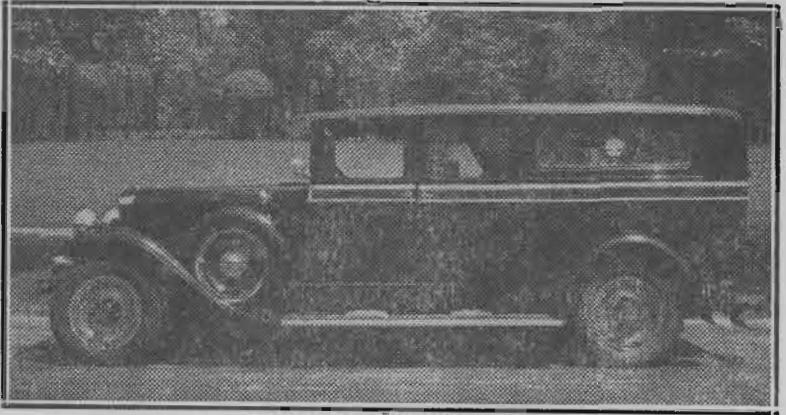
FEBRUARY, 1932

Volume Two

Number Two

"He is the best physician who is the best inspirer of hope."—Coleridge.





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THE MAL'ARIA OF ROME

Dr. H. E. Patrick

There has appeared among my belongings, from what source I know not, a copy of "the North American Review, No. XLII new series No. XVII, for January 1824, published at Boston by one O. Everett No. 13 Cornhill." It is moth-eared and water soiled, yet maintains its form perfectly, being 9¼ x 5¾ inches in size. The contents of this volume consist of abstractions of current publications in this country and abroad. The table of contents is as follows:

- Art. I, Memories of the Queen of France.
- Art. II, New Hampshire Historical Collections.
- Art. III, Colonization Society.
- Art. IV, Confessions of an Opium Eater.
- Art. V, Beethnon's Greek Grammar.
- Art. VI, Life of Ali Pacha.
- Art. VII, Cochin China.
- Art. VIII, Mr. Ingersoll's Discourse.
- Art. IX, Grisconis Tour in Europe.
- Art. X, Essays on Scenes in Italy.
- Art. XI, Practice in Civil Actions.

We, as medical men, will enjoy article X whose fuller title is as follows: "Essays Descriptive and Moral on Scenes in Italy, Switzerland and France. By an American." The abstract appearing in this volume makes a few references to scenes and conditions in France and Switzerland, and then quotes, at great length, the author's views and prognostications upon the "Mal'aria of Rome." Without further comment, I shall present the material as abstracted, mark you, in 1824.

"In one point of view, indeed, few subjects can be more interesting than the present state of Rome;—Rome, we mean, considered as a diminished and decaying city, annually consumed by the increasing pestilence of Mal'aria, whose ruins are destined at some period, and perhaps, at no very remote one, to be left as desolate as the ruins of Paestium or Volterra. That this is inevitable has long been admitted with more or less distinctness, but never shown by any connected notices of the past progress of this mysterious pestilence, compared with its present extent; for the Romans have seemed to be unwilling to meet the subject in all its alarming magnitude; and strangers have rarely examined it with interest and thoroughness.

The Mal'aria, or bad air, as it is called, is a state of the atmosphere, or of the soil, or of both, in different parts of Italy, producing in the warm season, and, especially in the months of August and September, a fever, more or less violent according to the nature of the exposure; but generally fatal, where the exposure has been long continued, or the place among the more dangerous. It is found in very different situations, indeed, so different, that we can hardly be justified in believing it always to proceed from the same cause. We hear of it in the rice grounds of Lombardy, on the highlands near Padua, on the summit of the Radicofani, and round the Gulf of Salerno. But it is nowhere so formidable as at Rome, for it nowhere else prevails in a tract of country so extensive, or is followed by consequences indicating so fatal a degree of activity in the cause. The infected district, of which Rome is almost the center, extends on the coast from Leghorn to Terracina, and from the sea back to the Appenines, nearly two hundred miles in length and some times above thirty in width. How many perish annually from the peculiar disease contracted within these limits, it is not possible to determine; because the persons employed here in cultivating the soil do not live on it permanently, and as soon as they find themselves infected, endeavor to seek a place in some of the towns, or return home to be restored or to die. The number, however, is very great. Above four thousand perished by it in hospitals of Rome alone in 1801, and the yearly list seldom falls below thirteen hundred. Indeed, it is now a settled point, that human life cannot be supported where the Mal'aria prevails with a considerable degree of intensity, and those who have survived one season of exposure of it, under such circumstances are generally its victims, if their poverty forces them a second year within its influence.

A century ago, and indeed much later, it was generally believed that Mal'aria was a dense exhalation chiefly from the Pontine marshes, brought to Rome in the latter part of the summer by the south westerly winds, which then prevail nearly the whole time. In consequence of this, the small number of houses built beyond the capitol, in modern times, have generally been constructed with a few or no windows toward the southwest, lest the infection should gain access by them. But it has since been found to enter gradually at the northern side of the city, and at the same season, not withstanding the prevalence of opposing winds, and, therefore, this doctrine, which was always obliged to contend with the fact that these Pontine marshes are forty miles from Rome, seems now to have little left for its support.

That the Pontine marshes are unhealthy from the decay of vegetable matter there can be no doubt, and it is probably they always were so. Pliny, indeed, speaks of a large number of cities that filled them with population and life before all record of Roman history; but, the tradition he followed is probably fabulous, and the first authentic information we get concerning them is that they were drained in the year of Rome 442 by Appius Cladius, when he built his famous Appian Way through the midst of them. But in time his canal ceased to fulfill its purpose. Horace, indeed passed through it on his merry journey to Brundisium, and saw evidently more than one village on its borders; but Julius Caesar had already found the whole relapsing and formed a magnificent project for a perpetual drain and purification of the whole extent of the marshes, by carrying through their center the bed of the Tiber, and discharging its waters at Terracina, above 30 miles from its natural outlet. He was however prevented from undertaking it by his sudden death. They were probably drained again by Trajan, and certainly in the year 500, by Theodorick, but from this time as everywhere else in Italy, the works of antiquity, here too, went into decay. About the year 1300, Boniface VII ventured to do something and almost three centuries later, the restless spirit of Sixtus V made an experiment of an enormous canal but both failed. The road was still obliged to go round by the declivity of the Appenines, and the immense surface of the marshes was still left, as Statius saw it, one vast bog.

At last, between 1778 and 1788, Pius VI, acting under persuasion, that the pestilence of the Mal'aria came to Rome from the Pontine marshes, undertook to reduce them at once, to a state fit for cultivation. An immense number of lives was consumed in the enterprise, but he succeeded so far as to build through the midst of this watery waste, a magnificent road twenty-four miles long, accompanied like the Appian Way, by an ample canal, which, when the French were masters of Rome, was enlarged and furnished with subsidiary sulices that have remained every since in efficient operation. Still, however, the Pontine marshes cannot be said to be reclaimed. Of the hundred and thirty eight square miles of which they are composed, not above twenty have been reduced to cultivation; and of the remainder a large proportion is still under water. The whole is as much subject as ever to exhalations that produce fatal fevers during the summer months, and it remains therefore, as dreary a waste now as it was when Appius Cladius built the solid causeway, that has disappeared forever in its bosom. Human habitations, there are none except those supported by the government; and the very postillions, that are obliged to convey those travellers whom necessity brings there at the dangerous season, are convicts for whom this service is only a commutation of punishment. Wherever the eye turns, the view is, at last, closed up by a rank and impenetrable growth of sapings and bushes, that on such a soil, can never grow the height of trees, and in the intervals, where these are not found, thousands of horses and buffaloes are wandering about in herds nearly wild, followed sometimes, though rarely, by wretched herdsmen, broken down with squalid infirmities, and as rude and untamed as themselves.

That the exhalations from such a vast extent of country as this, so long the seat of fatal disease, may, as the vulgar have believed from the time of Pliny to our own days, produce some effect on the atmosphere in the city of Rome, when the wind has long blown from the south west, is very possible. It is not, however, credible, that they are the entire or even principal cause of the Mal'aria there; for this pestilence prevails in other parts of Italy remote from all marshy grounds, it prevails near Rome over a dry surface vastly greater than the whole

surface of the Pontine marshes; the city itself is forty miles distant from them, and for the last 20 years, the Mal'aria has been entering from the north against the current of the winds, as fast as it has from the south, where it is supposed to be favored by them.

We must, therefore, seek for its chief cause in the very soil it lays waste; or in other words, in the territory which passes under the name of the Campagna di Roma, whose centre is Rome itself. The territory is entirely of volcanic formations, is broken into gentle undulations, is raised considerable above the level of the sea, and is quite dry. It, is, therefore, in all respects different from the Pontine marshes, and yet is no less the seat of disease, and no less deserted and waste.

How long it has been unhealthy, from the causes that have now depopulated above a thousand square miles of fruitful territory, it is not easy to determine. The neighborhood of Rome, according to Livy's account, was not in good reputation above three centuries before the Christian era. Strabo speaks of Lanuvium and Ostium; and Seneca of Ardea, as unhealthy; and that the city itself was partially so, we may fairly infer from the beautiful descriptions in Horace, and the constant allusions in Svetorius Juvenal, and Tibullus, to the villas that were scattered from the hills of Tivoli to Bja and Carraea where the luxurious patri-cians, and their more luxurious emperors resorted for a purer air than they could find at home. But this is all; and such intimations will hardly distinguish the case of ancient Rome from that of other large southern cities. Certainly there is nothing in them, that indicates the peculiar curse of an annual pestilence laying waste a vast territory then quite as thickly crowded with population as the neighborhood of London and Paris is now.

Nor are its traces to be found even at a much later date. In the times of the empire there is no doubt, from many passages in the Epitomes, in Ammianus Marcellinus and in Propius, that the Campagna was still as full of population as the state of the city might lead us to expect. Christian churches were opened or erected in the suburbs, in the time of Constantine and his immediate successors. The splendid tomb of St. Helena, which would not have been built remote from observation, stood where all is now unbroken waste. Indeed, as late as the year 400, when Honorius made his progress through Italy, the whole road from Oeciculeum, a distance of fifty miles, on twenty-five of which there are now but two human dwellings; and those supported by the government—this whole road was so completely lined with splendid houses, villas, temples, and triumphal arches, or as, Claudian haply expressed it, quicquid tantae, praemittitur urbi, that the Emperor imagined himself every moment approaching the gate of the capital.

Under the papal power in the middle ages, everything of course declined, and the Campagna suffered in the common decay. But still, there are proofs that it was not desolated by the Mal'aria. In the ninth century the Popes employed themselves repeatedly in the enlarging and fortifying the city of Ostium then of great consequence, but now entirely deserted. In the eleventh, twelfth, and thirteenth centuries, the Sicarras, the Sforzas, and the other independent feudal chieftians, who have sway in that part of Italy, held throughout the Campagna those massive castles, whose ruins bear constant witness to a degree of salubrity that is now unknown; while the remains of several forsaken monasteries, and two papal villas, which were chosen resorts and residences about the year 1300, prove at least that any inherent difficulty in the soil or atmosphere was a thing not yet apprehended.

The darkest and most disastrous period however, that Rome has ever passed through is that between 1305 and 1376, when the papal throne was established at Avignon. The city was then given up to the most desperate and bloody factions, under the conduct of what, in the language of the time, were called the *famiglia prepotenti*; the Coloune, the Orsini, the Frangifoni and other domestic princes and Military chiefs, traces of whose residence and strength are still to be found where human habitation has long been impracticable. Nothing, perhaps, can exceed the misery they produced by their desperate quarrels. Faction succeeded faction without an interval of repose; one ambitious family triumphed over another, and one demagogue displaced another, in such rapid succession,

(Continued on Page 17)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The evolution of the Mahoning County Medical Society in the last few years has been of particular interest to me.

We all remember the meetings held in the grimy, shadowy basement room at the library, attended usually by only a handful of the old faithful. Many a vision, many a dream of an ideal society was shattered there. Appearing soon however on the horizon and sweeping over us, was the game of golf, which I fully believe was greatly responsible for pushing us where we now are. Then better scientific programs with a more fitting meeting place gave us more enthusiasm and again we began to dream of better things. And now, that vigorous youngster, our Bulletin, that medium through which we can keep acquainted with the doings of the Society and the medical and social problems of interest to all! If this is not progress you have only to think back, or more recently if you choose, and compare the Bulletin of a year ago with this one of today.

With that background, we have to go on. Our health program must be exactly determined and then carried on; at first feeling our way, and as results are attained, gradually expanding, thus as a body becoming of increasing value to our community.

Our programs have been good, and will continue to be so, just so long as we demand them. The Post Graduate day is all arranged, and for the coming year, 1933, everything has been done except setting the date. The Program Committee also has promised a noted speaker for the public meeting, which already has become an institution.

We have much more than the nucleus of a library. What shall we do with it? Certainly the effort and money spent should not be wasted. This material can be put in shape to be of use to all.

The increasing value and scope of the Bulletin, which is self-sustaining, the further activity of the committees and your officers, particularly the secretary, demands that a central office with an executive or paid assistant secretary be provided, if the progress we have made is to be maintained and continued.

With the advice and help of Council, committees have been appointed, and are at work. This year larger committees have been formed than usual, so that a greater percentage of our membership will have an opportunity to become more active. This may not be an advantage, because everyone knows that often a large body is not only unwieldy, but will not work. This is an experiment, so I am asking every member of every committee to answer the call of a meeting and even though there does not seem to be much to do, or you might perhaps feel unnecessary, still your presence alone will be a stimulus to the other members, and especially to your Chairman.

One of the most interesting and instructive meetings I ever attended anywhere was that of committee chairmen, held about three weeks ago, when the program of the year was announced and heartily received. A most enthusiastic discussion followed, which spoke well for the future of the Society.

Every administration must have a platform, and so with your cooperation, mine will be to dedicate my services this year to the further building up of our organization into a well-oiled, smooth-running mechanism that will be of infinite benefit to ourselves and of real assistance to our community, not only in the course of its daily life, but in any emergency that might arise.

A. E. BRANT.

The Mahoning County Medical Society BULLETIN

Published Monthly at Youngstown, Ohio, by the Editorial Committee

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EDITORIAL PAGE

The physician's office has long been the headquarters for the relief of sickness. Are you making any effort to make yours a headquarters for prevention of sickness? Many doctors are neglecting preventive methods — some are not familiar with the most modern technic. In order to stimulate interest in this important branch of medicine, the Bulletin will run a series of articles on "Standardization Technique." Watch for them. The first appears in this issue and deals with immunization against diphtheria and scarlet fever.

ELECTROVITA

This is the name of an artificial mineral water which is supposedly produced by electrolysis. It is now being pushed very vigorously in Youngstown by an active sales force with headquarters at 1929 Market St. The sales efforts are directed chiefly to the laity, especially those known to be sick, but they also have the temerity to approach the physicians with their pseudo-scientific jargon of sales talk and literature.

On careful examination of their pamphlets we find that rheumatism, colds, stomach troubles, and dozens of other diseases are caused by acids in the body. We learn that in order to retain normal health the stomach must be free from acid, which will interfere with digestion!!! On studying the analysis we find it is an ordinary alkaline water, about one-half the strength of lime water.

One physician was approached by a sales person who had learned of a case of asthma in the physician's own family and wanted to try Electrovida because "we have been getting such wonderful results where all medical treatment had failed." This same person expressed the willingness of the company to cooperate with the doctors who used it in their practice to the extent of "25% of our commission," and gave as answer to his expressions of horror, "well, other doctors in Youngstown are doing it!"

If there are any physicians in this city who have been "taken in" in this manner, let them be referred to the report of the Bureau of Investigation, entitled "Electrovida—Weak Lime Water Plus Hokum" in the J. A. M. A. Vol. 98, No. 4 Jan. 23, 1932, Page 337.

"KOREMLU" and THALLIUM POISONING

We have received a very timely letter from Dr. C. B. Norris, copies of which he has mailed to the Youngstown Vindicator and to the G. M. McKelvey Co. Dr. Norris calls their attention to the advertising of this product in which it is stated that "Koremlu Positively and Safely Removes Unwanted Hair" and that "Koremlu is Safe." He cites cases of Thallium poisoning in the literature and in his personal experience, which resulted from the use of this preparation.

Such advertising is untruthful and dangerous and we commend Dr. Norris for his alertness in warning our local concerns who probably have innocently accepted the manufacturer's statements.

J. L. F.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The applications for membership of the following doctors have been received:
 Dr. W. S. Curtis Dr. E. C. Mylott Dr. John Paul Kenney

At the same time we received a resignation of membership from Dr. W. A. Metzger. This communication was turned over to the membership committee who, to the present time, have done very excellent work and have looked up all of the new applicants and have talked personally with Dr. Metzger. His reasons for resigning have been reported to this office.

* * * * *

The first meeting of Council was held at the Youngstown Club, January 7th, 1932. Dr. Brant outlined the work of the society, and some of the problems that were confronting the doctors were brought up. It was discussed at great length of what aid the medical society could be in relation to the charity organizations that are in operation in our city and county, and whether or not the doctors should operate a clinic in their offices one day a week. It was felt by Council that additional clinics should be tabooed, as our hospitals were adequate in taking care of this work, and that it would be an added expense to the doctors who attempted it.

At this time our druggist friends are cooperating with us in volunteering to give drugs at cost and even less than that if it is necessary.

* * * * *

Dr. Brant called a meeting on January 13th, 1932, of the Chairmen of the various standing committees of the society. This meeting was well attended. The work of the society was outlined, the work of each committee was outlined, and the chairmen of the committees were asked especially to put their shoulder to the wheel so that the work of the society that has already been started should not stop and that new work should be done and continued. Dr. Brant requested that each chairman appoint a vice chairman, and that the minutes of each committee meeting be kept and reported to the secretary of the society, so that the society will know what is being done by these committees. At this meeting a new committee was appointed to be known as the Membership Committee. The duties of this committee were outlined by the president, that each new member that is elected is to be properly introduced and made to feel at home, and members that do not come to the meetings should be approached as to their attitude of not attending the meetings. Also, men that are eligible for membership should be interviewed.

* * * * *

Dr. Fisher called a meeting of the Editorial Committee, on January 18th, 1932, wherein he outlined the work of the year. Dr. Thomas was informed of the program of the past year and the work for the incoming year. All the members of the committee were present at this meeting. It was suggested at this meeting that to make the announcement of the meeting more prominent, that a colored sheet should be used in some section of the Bulletin. Dr. Fisher has insisted that all material for the Bulletin be in his hands by the first of each month, so that the Bulletin can go to press without delay.

* * * * *

The Annual Banquet of the medical society was held on January 19th, 1932, at the Youngstown Club, where an enjoyable meal was served. The speaker of

the evening was Mr. James Gheen, of New York City. This was preceded by a charge of unethical practice against Dr. Smeltzer, by Drs. Patrick and E. C. Goldcamp, and was shown after, to be just a farce. This meeting was one of the outstanding events of the year, when 134 doctors of our vicinity got together.

* * * * *

Dr. Fuzy called a meeting of the Post Graduate Day Committee in his office on January 22nd, 1932, and all the members were present. The work of the committee was outlined, and each and every member was given duties to perform. It was suggested at this meeting, and the committee followed it out, that the out of town doctors be requested to bring their wives to our Post Graduate Day, and for this purpose the committee is making elaborate plans to entertain the women of the visiting doctors. At this meeting Dr. G. Nelson was chosen vice-chairman of this committee.

* * * * *

Dr. Arthur Smyth, who was confined to the St. Elizabeth's Hospital, is at the present time at home and is making a very nice recovery. We hope that the doctor continues to improve, and that we will see him back on the job in a short time.

Dr. Leland Phipps was confined for a few days to his home with a badly infected sinus and infection of his eyes. At the present time we are glad to report that Dr. Phipps is able to resume his practice.

We send sincere condolences to Dr. Ray Fenton, on the death of his father, January 27th, 1932.

WM. M. SKIPP, Sec'y.

MEDICAL GLEANINGS

POST GRADUATE DAY—The committee is working hard to make this year's meeting bigger and better than ever. The facilities of the Hotel Ohio have been engaged, and there will be space for exhibits of pharmaceuticals and surgical supplies. The program, which will last all day, will be announced later. Bulletins and announcements will be mailed to all hospitals and physicians within seventy-five miles of Youngstown.

A very successful sectional meeting of the American College of Surgeons was held in Pittsburgh on January 25th and 26th. The following doctors from Youngstown attended: K. W. Allison, W. K. Allsop, E. C. Baker, A. E. Brant, J. D. Brown, J. U. Buchanan, L. C. Couchman, A. Elsaesser, J. L. Fisher, D. A. Gross, E. C. Goldcamp, C. D. Houser, G. B. Kramer, J. S. Lewis, B. B. McElhaney, F. W. McNamara, J. Nagel, G. G. Nelson, D. A. Nesbit, J. M. Ranz, W. B. Turner, O. J. Walker and S. Weaver.

At the midwinter meeting of the Ohio State Board of Medical Examiners, licenses to practice were issued to the following local men: Richard V. Clifford (Georgetown University), Joseph C. Hall (University of Louisville) and Alexander Slavcoff (University of Maryland).

Anyone having samples of Lactogen on hand will please communicate with Dr. Paul Fuzy who has a patient in poor circumstances in need of this product.

Look for the announcement of the February meeting on Page 12.



HOSPITAL NOTES

OHIO HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION REPORT ON AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT CASES

For the year ending June 30, 1931, one hundred and twenty (120) hospitals reported the following cases.

Twenty-one thousand and fifty-six (21,056) cases were treated in the emergency departments of hospitals; 8,889 of these cases were admitted to the hospital; they received 113,811 days treatment. The total cost of caring for these patients admitted to the hospital was \$634,391.58. The amount collected from patients was \$295,861.29, leaving a total loss of uncollectible accounts of \$338,498.29. The loss for the entire State would be approximately \$395,000.00. This report represents about 85% of the hospital beds in the State. The loss on automobile cases to the hospitals in Youngstown was about \$36,000.00.

YOUNGSTOWN HOSPITAL

During the year 1931, 19,952 individuals were treated by the Hospital. This includes patients admitted to the hospitals and patients treated in the various out patient departments.

At the South Side Unit the amount collected from patients was only 55% of the total operating expenses.

The number of deaths occurring in the hospital last year was 427. Autopsies were held on 24.3% of the deaths.

22,217 treatments were given in the out patient department. This is an increase of 33-1/3% over the previous year.

The average number of days' occupancy at the South Side Unit was 12.3 and at the North Side Unit 10.8.

Beginning February third, the eleven rooms on One West at the North Side Unit will be opened at \$6.00 per day.

ST. ELIZABETH'S HOSPITAL

Sister M. DeLillis Supt., and Sister M. Amadeis R. N., attended the Hospital Conference held in Pittsburgh, Pa., January 26th.

1931 Patients treated	4877	Dispensary	14331
Total patient days	39213	Operations	2042
Accident cases	2438	Births	550



STANDARDIZATION TECHNIQUE

NOTE:—This is the first of a series of abstracts from authoritative sources, dealing with preventive medicine. They are presented to the membership with the idea of promoting unity in technical methods. This program is abstracted from the article by Rhoads, P. S.: Skin Tests and Immunization Against Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria: Results in Nurses of Cook County Hospital, J. A. M. A. 97:153 (July 18, 1931).

I. Program of Immunization.

● **Scarlet fever immunization.** First the Dick test is made by injecting exactly 0.1 cc. of Dick test toxin intradermally on the volar surface of both forearms. Regular skin test syringes (made by MacGregor of Philadelphia) and 26 gage "Summit" needles are used. The syringe should be sterilized by boiling in distilled water only. Alcohol may precipitate the toxin, and alkaline tap water may alter it. The test is made on both arms to avoid error in technic. A control test is not necessary. The tests are observed from twenty to twenty-four hours later. It is unsafe to take readings after a lapse of twenty-four hours because a positive test may have faded by that time. Any degree of pinkness 0.5 cm. or more in any diameter is regarded as a positive test. Those found susceptible are immunized by being given the five graduated doses of immunizing scarlet fever toxin subcutaneously at intervals of one week. Only preparations of scarlet fever toxin approved by the Scarlet Fever Committee and so labeled are used. Two weeks after the last dose of scarlet fever toxin, the subjects are retested and if the test is still even slightly positive a sixth dose, the same size as the fifth is used. One is strongly advised against using the two or three dose immunization with so-called scarlet fever ricinoleated antigen. In our experience this material gives extremely severe reactions and does not produce good immunization.

● **Diphtheria immunization.** First a Schick test is made by injecting exactly 0.1 cc. of Schick test material intradermally in the upper arm with a control test of the same material which has been boiled in a water bath for at least twenty minutes. The tests are observed at forty-eight hours. Faint tests may fade after this time. Any degree of pinkness or induration above 0.5 cm. in diameter is regarded as a positive test. Fewer results are being called pseudoreaction as our experience enlarges. Even if the control test is as large as the regular Schick test we usually call the test positive unless the control test is as bright and as indurated as that with unheated toxin. Schick test material is never used more than forty-eight hours after the mixture of concentrated diphtheria toxin and salt solution is made. Those found susceptible are immunized by repeated doses of diphtheria toxoid. Toxoid is used altogether by the Scarlet Fever Committee now because it avoids sensitization to serum which may be produced by toxin-antitoxin preparations and because in our experience it gives more satisfactory immunization.

Since adults react more severely than children to toxoid, we give five instead of the usual three doses, making the first three quite small. A suggested plan of administration is as follows. A first dose of 0.1 cc. is given followed one week later by 0.25 cc. and then a week later by 0.5 cc. Two weeks later 1.0 cc. is given, and two weeks after this a final dose of 1.5 cc. The retest is made two weeks after the last dose. If the test is still positive, more immunizing doses are given.

Program of the
FEBRUARY MEETING

Dr. JOSEPH BARACH
of Pittsburgh

“High Arterial Pressure”
Etiology, Classification and Treatment

Dr. Barach is Medical Director of the Falk Clinic, University of Pittsburgh. The Falk Clinic, opened in the fall of 1931, is the out patient department for the entire Medical Center now being built in Pittsburgh, and it is one of eight medical institutions centering about the School of Medicine.

Dr. Barach is a pioneer in the study of Blood Pressure. In 1906 he reported the most extensive investigation on Blood Pressure in Typhoid Fever made up to that time, and since then he has carried on Blood Pressure studies in normal health, in athletics, in the acute infections and in chronic diseases. He has made important contributions to the literature of Hypertension during the past twenty-five years and he is the author of the section of Low Arterial Pressure in the Encyclopedia of Medicine.

His most recent studies have dealt with the constitutional factors, hereditary traits and salt metabolism in Arterial Hypertension. In these fields his clinical observations covers three generations in Hypertensive families as well as continued studies in individual cases over many years.

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 1932 — 8:15 P. M.

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The Queens Medical Society Business Bureau, Inc., has now been in existence twenty months. At the outset of its existence, it borrowed from the County Medical Society \$2,170.00. During 1931, it has paid back on its original loan \$804.08 and in so doing has completely furnished a ladies' rest room and decorated this lounge and its adjoining lavatory.

The Business Bureau is also supporting a Nurses Registry, and will furnish secretarial service on request.

Since its inception and up to the present date, it has brought back into the pockets of the members of our County Society who patronize its collection department, \$14,106.62.

So far this year the sum of \$1,142.51 has been realized as a result of social affairs. This amount will be increased at least by several hundred dollars from the receipts of the dinner-dance which our ladies are managing for us and which will be held at the Garden City Hotel on Armistice night this year.

At the present time our collection department is serving two hundred and fifteen men. We have demonstrated as a County Medical Society that it is possible to run a Business Bureau as well as our scientific activities and that a collection department in that Bureau can be run on an honest and efficient basis.—*Bulletin of the Medical Society of the County of Queens (N. Y.)*

CONTEMPORARY REVIEW

A very definite and, I believe healthy, division of opinion is found within our ranks on almost every occasion where this is possible; it operates potently to prevent unworthy striving were such conceivable.

It may be regarded as axiomatic that wherever mass activity or interest is concerned a group must either lead or be led. I believe that there is no third possibility. The lead in all things with which medicine has close contact and in which medical science or practice plays the vital role should be taken by medical organization and through representative members. Failure to do this will imply, to the public, either a disbelief in the dicta of our own profession or a lukewarm attitude toward the public good.

Has organized medicine ever opposed popular education in health matters, the operation of methods for preventing disease, the popularization of periodic health examinations, or indeed, any of those movements which have already done so much for the public health and comfort? By no means. No one has dared to say so. On the other hand, there is a widespread feeling among intelligent laymen that the attitude of the mass of our profession toward these matters is merely of a negative quality, and that the credit for making practical use of the fruits of medical advance belongs in too great measure to social workers and other public spirited laymen.—*Albert H. Freiburg, in American Medical Association Bulletin.*

I am by no means unaware of the narrowminded and exclusively self-seeking attitude of a good many practitioners who see in every social movement affecting medicine simply one more effort to rob them of a livelihood and forthwith devote all their energies to digging in where they are. Their position is like that of Labor, which has traditionally opposed all labor-saving machinery—and always in the long run, in vain. . . .

(A new social) philosophy conceives the social order as under binding obligation to give its members wholesome conditions of life, protection from needless exposure, whether to climate or disease or moral depravity. It conceives human life as indisputably superior to money or physical property in any form, and it is disposed to suppress or radically modify any agency to practice which appears to be exploiting men for the promotion of merely financial and material gain.—*President Angell of Yale (Time Oct. 26, 1931).*

Undoubtedly we are now participating in a great world change. Despite the difficulties which we must surmount and the problems which we must solve, no one can doubt that eventually the change will have been for the better. We are being put through the test of strength and courage, which will make us a better and a more substantial people. In retrospect, we now know that conditions of the last ten years were abnormal; that a reaction had to set it, and that what we thought was prosperity was a mirage. We know now that real prosperity is made of sterner stuff, and so we will set about to build on a firmer foundation.—*The Milwaukee Medical Times.*

If we are to carry on with satisfaction and advantage to ourselves, as well as carry out our duty in reference to maintenance of public health, we must have a well-organized executive office with adequate space and personnel. No voluntary effort, essential as it is, can take its place.—*Bulletin of the Medical Society of the County of Kings.*

"It may be true that the general public is giving greater attention to minor ills and more readily taking the advice of the profession to come back for re-examination after illness. It is undoubtedly true that prenatal and post-partum supervision has markedly increased and is easier of accomplishment than in the past. Nevertheless it is evidently the consensus of medical opinion that not many people are knocking at the office door demanding a physical examination without presenting complaints—and this in spite of the general propaganda for periodic examinations which has been conducted during and since the World War. Here again the medical profession must take the lead. The individual doctor must be the leader with his individual client."—*Bulletin of the Medical Society of the County of Kings.*

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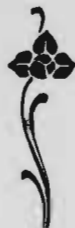
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THE MAL'ARIA OF ROME

(Continued from Page 5)

that it seemed as if the universal misery were fast approaching an inevitable conclusion. When, therefore Gregory XI returned in 1377, he found the country about Rome laid waste, he found suburbs had disappeared, that the walls were in many places broken down and destroyed; and that the whole of the discouraged and failing population were reduced to seventeen thousand souls, so near was the eternal city to its final fall.

From this time, and perhaps, partly in consequence of this melancholy desolation, we begin to find notices of what is now called Mal'aria. In 1406, when Gregory XII was elected, we are expressly told by a contemporary, that he did not establish himself at the Latern, where his predecessors had resided while the air was not unhealthy—*dum aer non infectus*; so that it must have been something recent. The villa Magliana, a favorite residence of Leo X six miles from Rome, where he was seized with the illness of which he died in 1521, had been considered an infected spot ever since his time. The Vatican has been accounted positively unsafe since the conclave of 1623; and at every protracted election of a pope, which has happened during the past two centuries in the months of August and September there has been a remarkable mortality among the cardinals and their attendants. Since 1710, the Palatius, the Circus Maximus the Forum, the Baths of Dioclesian, the Colosseum and indeed the whole of those portions of the city, where ancient Rome chiefly stood, have been quite abandoned to the Mal'aria. Very few buildings remain there, and none have been erected, so that from the Vinical round by the Latern, and by the Baths of Antonius to the Aventine, the whole must soon become an absolute desert.

At the same time, however, that the site of ancient Rome has been thus silently given up, the heart of the modern city and its very best positions have been gradually invaded. The Piazza Navona, Ripetta, and the Suirinal began to be dangerous above a hundred years ago, and the last has since become absolutely unsafe during the hottest months so that even for a century, the coming down of Rome may be considered as having been inscribed on its walls directly enough to have been understood by those, who well regarded the signs of the times. But within the last fifty years when observation has been more accurate, this doom has been more apparent. The annual pestilence, which had so long reigned unmolested in the southern portions of the city has, within that time, intruded from the north. The villa Borghese, the most ample and magnificent of Roman country houses, which was built in the 17th century, just outside the Porta del Popolo, and which during the greater part of the 18th, was the scene of more luxury and splendor, than almost any spot in Italy, has, for above forty years, been considered infected, and is now suffered to fall to ruin. The upper part of Corso, and the Piazza di Spagna, to which strangers resort, and always have resorted in modern times, as the healthiest part of the city, have not been entirely safe since the beginning of the present century, and are thought annually to grow worse. The public walk which the French constructed hardly twenty years ago on the site, or nearly on the site of the luxurious gardens of Sallust and Lucullus, must already be avoided during the evenings of the Months of August and September. The beautiful Villa Ludovisi, in the same quarter has been no more safe during the last thirty years but the French Academy of Painting, though separated from it by a public way, was never invaded till the summer of 1817 and has been condemned as dangerous only since the death of several of the pupils in 1818.

Thus the last of the Roman hills and the portion of the city, which, through a succession of the ages, has been chosen seat of its luxury, is now become the victim of Mal'aria; so that from the Vatican to the Latern, from the Villa Borghese to the gate of St. Paul, there is no longer any considerable space from which those, who are able, do not escape during the hot months, and only very small portions, where from some unexplained cause this mysterious pestilence has not yet intruded. Outside the walls, or in the deserted parts within them, no person will do more than pass rapidly on during the dangerous season, who can possibly avoid it.

(Turn the Page)

THE MAL'ARIA OF ROME
(Continued from Page 17)

On the final result of such a state of things, it is of course, impossible to shut our eyes. The Mal'aria has been for four centuries constantly extending its ravages. It is a contest that has been for ages every year renewed, and every year followed by a signal defeat. The whole Campagna has been laid waste by it; three fourths of the space within the walls of the city have been given up to its desolation; and even in the remainder, though crowded with churches that would be cathedrals elsewhere, and with places such as transalpine kings do not dwell in, the unseen pestilence still goes forth unmolested. It is not, indeed for human foresight to fix the dates of empires and cities; but it is more in the spirit of history than of prophecy to say, that Rome, must one day become what Paestium and Volterra are now.

How soon this solemn consummation must take place, we could perhaps almost determine, if we knew what is the cause of the Mal'aria. But this has been reserved among the darkest of nature's secrets. Whether it be, as some have supposed, an exhalation from the waters hidden far under the surface, and therefore to be avoided, as one of the cardinals has wisely suggested, by literally paving the whole of the countless acres of the Campagna; or whether it be from the volcanic materials of the soil, which after decaying for thousands of years have at last reached the point, when under the influences of the summer's heat, and the action of the sea air a noxious gas is developed; or whether it be from any other of the many causes that have been suggested, or from all put together, we have notwithstanding the discussions that have been carried on, no means to determine. Chemistry detects no difference between the air that during the months of August and September, destroys life in the Campagna, and the air which elsewhere is life's support and nourishment.

All we know, therefore, of the Mal'aria is from its effects, and nothing can be more solemn than the exhibition, the Campagna gives us of its long continued power. The eye wanders over its boundless waste without finding any other

(Continued on Page 20)

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THE MAL'ARIA OF ROME
(Continued from Page 18)

horizon, than that formed by the gentle undulations, which everywhere break without relieving its melancholy monotony. Frequently not a house, nor a tree, nor a sign of human habitation or life is to be seen for many miles. And yet here once lived the hardy and warlike tribes of the Fidenates and the Coriolani. Here was the crowd of population that found no place in Rome in the times of the Republic. Here was no small portion of the splendor of the Empire. And, finally here resided the strength of a proud barbarism in the middle ages, when the contest between the Orisini, the Sciarras, the Savelli, and other rude chieftains in the castles without the city, and the ecclesiastical usurpations within, remained so long undecided.

And yet, there is little in the Campagna to recall the deserts, which nature has elsewhere left or created in her works, since these melancholy wastes owe their power over the feelings and the imagination less to their present condition, than to the recollections and associations they awaken. For the heavens above them are of the most undisturbed and transparent blue. The sun shines with the purest and whitest light. The very vegetation is so rich and abundant, so wantonly luxuriant, that it seems as if nature were wooing man to cultivation; as if this may be one of the very chosen spots of all the earth for human habitation and happiness. But the mind refuses to rest on all this. The past and future prevails over the present. It is impossible not to recollect, that this secure sky and brilliant sun which should inspire such confidence, serve only to develop the various qualities of the soil; that the air which breathes so gently is as fatal as it is balmy; and that this abundant vegetation is composed only of gross and lazy weeds, such as may be fitly nourished by exhalations so deadly. Or if it were possible, for a moment, to drive away thoughts like these, the imitations of human life and power that are visible, would recall others even more sad. The remains of an ancient aqueduct stretching its numberless arches through the waste, would recall the multitudes that once found health in its waters. The occasional fragment of the rude architecture of the middle ages would give token

(Continued on Page 22)

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