NEWSLETTER

October 1996

FALL MEETING TO BE HELD OCTOBER 23 AT NASSAU CLUB

The fall meeting of the MHSNJ will be held Wednesday, October 23, at The Nassau Club in Princeton. The fourth annual Corporate Lecture will be presented by Susan Lederer, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Humanities, Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. Dr. Lederer's paper is "Moving Pictures: Animal Experimentation and the Silver Screen in the 1930s and '40s." The Corporate Lecture is supported by donations from New Jersey pharmaceutical companies. Registration begins at 3:30 pm; the program begins at 4 pm.

Business Meeting -- Murrary A. Rosenberg, MD, President

Bleeding as a Treatment and Treatment of Bleeding
Benjamin F. Rush, Jr., MD
Distinguished Professor of Surgery, UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School

Taking Charge: The Unspoken History of Nursing, 1873-1920
Sandra Lewenson, EdD, RN,
Associate Professor of Nursing, Pace University

History of Caesarean Childbirth
Marco A. Pelosi, MD
Director, Pelosi Women's Medical Center, Bayonne, New Jersey

A Medical Visit to Ellis Island
Vincent J. Cirillo, MS, Past President, MHSNJ; PhD Candidate, Department of History, Rutgers University (New Brunswick)
Erik Bennett, BA, MA Candidate, Department of History, Rutgers University (Newark)

Cocktails and Dinner (6-7:30 pm)

Corporate Lecture (7:30 pm):
Members, students, and friends are invited to attend this dinner meeting. The cost is $40 per person; $5 for students. Advance registration is required. For information, contact Linda Bartolo, MHSNJ, 14 Washington Rd, Suite 101, Princeton Junction, NJ 08550, 609/275-1911.

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Greetings from the President:

We have many exciting things on the drawing board. Dick Wein, as membership chair, is planning an aggressive recruitment drive for the 21st century; please pass along to him names of prospective members. Vincent Cirillo is flexing his scholarly muscles with advanced meeting themes. Helen Sheehan, Bill Campbell and Andrea Blumenthal will revisit the ground rules for the Pasteur and Wickes prizes. Bob Thompson continues as our invaluable Nassau Club coordinator. We have even bestowed a new title on Barbara Irwin: Media Coordinator. Of course, Sandra Moss - to whom we are forever indebted - continues her stint as program chair.

A recent communication from Francis Chinard raised an interesting issue in my mind, to wit: What is the mission of our Society? Our current By-laws encourage study, research and teaching in the history of the health sciences with special reference to New Jersey, and, to study the relationship between health professions and the social, cultural and economic life of the community. Obviously, this is broad enough to encompass all disciplines within its versatile scope. An ad hoc committee, chaired by Bill Campbell, has been charged with the task of reviewing our Constitution and By-laws and make recommendations to add, delete, or stay pat.

I invite you all to assist the committee by sharing your thoughts about the Society’s mission and purpose, program content and formats, location, day and time of meetings. How can we best make our social and scientific sessions more meaningful and more enjoyable for you. We should be prepared expand our scholarly horizons and encourage our involvement in related disciplines in medicine and history.

In a word, can our Society become more “user friendly”? Or, are things fine the way they are? Please drop us a note with your thoughts. Do it soon so we can

This is a clarion call to all members of MHSNJ to:

- PARTICIPATE in our programs and dinner meetings
- CONTRIBUTE your expertise and knowledge
- COMMUNICATE your thoughts and ideas to us.

I look forward to seeing you at the Nassau Club on October 23.

Murray A. Rosenberg, MD
President

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MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Whitfield J. Bell, Jr., PhD, received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Association for the History of Medicine at its annual meeting in May in Buffalo.

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Francis P. Chinard, MD, was made an Emeritus Distinguished Professor of Research Medicine and of Pharmacology and Physiology by UMDNJ. Dr. Chinard continues to teach "History of Medicine," and "Current Topics in Medicine," as non-credit electives at the UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School. He presented "Jefferson's Views on Medicine, Physicians and Lawyers," in May at The Charaka Club.

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Lois R. Densky-Wolff, MAL, attended Rare Book School in July at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, for a one-week course entitled "Introduction to the Curatorship of Historical Health Sciences Collections."

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Gerald Geison, PhD, was awarded the William H. Welch Medal by the American Association for the History of Medicine for his book, Private Science of Louis Pasteur (Princeton University Press, 1995).

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Gerald N. Grob, PhD, presented "From World War II to New Frontier: The Federal Government and Mental Health Policy" in June at the National Institutes for Health in Rockville, MD.

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William H. Helfand, received the first Curatorship Award from the Archivists and Librarians in the History of Medicine in May for the exhibit catalog, Potions, Pills, & Purges: The Art of Pharmacy.
Wolfgang Jochle, PhD's manuscript, "Herodotus and Horses," was accepted for publication in the newsletter of the Institute for Ancient Equestrian Studies.

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MHSNJ Vice-President, Helen E. Sheehan, PhD, is serving on the Planning Committee for a conference to be held in Bangalore, India, January 9-12, 1997, on Women’s Health and Indic Medical Traditions.

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James E. Stick, PhD, was selected for a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Dibner Institute’s Program in Biology and Society at Arizona State University. Dr. Stick’s new address is: Program in Biology and Society, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ 85287-1501, (602) 965-8927.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save this date -- May 14, 1997-- for the spring meeting of the MHSNJ.

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How to Reach MHSNJ Officers and Committee Chairs

Murray A. Rosenberg, MD, FACR, President (201) 982-2307
Helen Sheehan, PhD, Vice-President (908) 449-9584
Steven Maron, MD, Secretary/Treasurer (609) 692-6000
Sandra Moss, MD, Program Chair (908) 745-8600 x 8707
Richard Wein, MD, Membership Chair (201) 777-7642
William C. Campbell, PhD, Pasteur Prize & (908) 655-1724
By-laws Review
Andrea Blumenthal, PhD, Pasteur Prize (201) 635-7296
Helen Sheehan, PhD, Wickes Prize (see above)
Barbara S. Irwin, Media Coordinator (201) 982-6293
Vincent Cirillo, AAHM in '99 (908) 246-7480
Allen Weisse, MD, AAHM in '99 (201) 982-4734
Frank Katz, PhD, MHSNJ Rep to LHSNJ (201) 736-2587

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MHSNJ Receives Saffron Grant for Survey

A $500 grant was awarded to the MHSNJ by the Morris H. Saffron Endowment for the History of Medicine for a project to survey local and county historical societies throughout the state to identify library/archives/museum resources related to New Jersey’s medical history. Project Director, Frank Katz, PhD, plans to mail the survey in October and to introduce the project at the fall meeting of the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey. Data from the survey will be compiled into a publication entitled, “Resources for Medical History Research in
History of Pharmacy Course

David Cowen reports an addition to information in, “Medical History Programs Increasing in New Jersey’s Colleges and Universities”, an article in the spring 1996 issue of the newsletter. MHSNJ member, John Colaizzi, PhD, Dean of the College of Pharmacy, Rutgers University, teaches a history of pharmacy course at the College.

The United States Public Health Service at Ellis Island and a Special Behind-the-Scenes Tour

by Erik Bennett, Graduate Student, Rutgers University

On July 10, 1996, a group of MHSNJ members gathered on Ellis Island for a guided tour of “Doctors at the Gate,” sponsored by UMDNJ Libraries’ Special Collections. The exhibit depicted the various roles of the Public Health Service (PHS), which included the medical inspection of immigrants and operations of medical facilities on the Island. The exhibit occupied six rooms in the Great Hall covering the founding of the PHS, the beginning of quarantine on the Island, and the medical inspection and care of immigrants. In addition, the exhibit portrayed how the PHS operated the hospital facilities, as well as the structure and functions of the PHS after the unceremonious closing of Ellis Island in 1954.

The medical historian would find the exhibit to be an overview of the PHS while the casual observer would find it to be a nostalgic look at how medicine was transformed in the last century. The exhibit was constructed in chronological sequence introducing visitors to the responsibilities of the PHS physicians, their use of the line inspection, medical equipment, and examination techniques.

Ellis Island operated as an immigration station from 1892 to 1954. During this period, the PHS physicians greeted millions of immigrants as well as their illnesses. The first uniformed individuals immigrants came in contact with were the physicians of the PHS. These physicians were responsible for certifying that newly arriving immigrants were both physically and psychologically sound, and therefore, no threat to the public health.

To our pleasant suprise, our guide, Eric Byran, gave us a tour of the various buildings which normally are closed to the public. This part of the tour was fascinating. A walk through the hallways of the hospital facilities was literally a walk back through time. Part of the facilities remain untouched since the closing
with chairs, tables, and beds still occupying rooms. As though the hospital staff expected to return tomorrow, bed sheets are still in the laundry mangle and some sanitizing units still contain beds waiting to be sanitized. The morgue, similar to the nineteenth century surgical amphitheater, brought about an eerie recollection. The examination tables and nearby physicians’ seating area were reminders of how the autopsy, as well as the practice of medicine, has altered with time.

It is very sad to note that the medical facilities on the Island are in such dilapidated condition -- ceilings have collapsed, windows are broken, and floors overgrown with poison ivy. Puddles of murky water and asbestos-tainted filth prevail throughout the facilities. Some buildings are so deteriorated, safe access is nearly impossible. Yet, the tour of these buildings was a reminder of a past era in the Island’s history, when the physicians of the PHS used the facilities to effectively care for thousands of ill newcomers.

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19th Century Home Remedy Kits Donated to UMDNJ

Two Homoeopathic Home Remedy Kits dating from the 19th century were donated to UMDNJ-University Libraries’ Special Collections in the History of Medicine. Each kit is contained in a handsome wooden box and consists of glass vials filled with tiny pills for such ailments as asthma, “female weakness,” worm diseases, and change-of-life. One kit was manufactured by Boericke & Tafel, established in 1835, the oldest Homoeopathic medicine house in the United States; the other was produced by Humphreys’ Specific Homoeopathic Medicine Company of New York.

By the mid-19th century, homoeopathy was widely accepted in New Jersey as a result of the state’s proximity to New York and Philadelphia, important centers for homoeopathic medicine. In New Jersey, a branch of the American Institute of Homoeopathy was organized in 1846 in Mount Holly. The New Jersey State Homoeopathic Medical Society was formed in 1855 in Trenton. Dr. Isaac Moreau (1806-95) is credited as being the first homoeopathic practitioner in the state. The home remedy kits were donated by Marvin N. Schwalb, PhD, of the UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School.

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Want to Borrow Books at the UMDNJ-Smith Library? Join the Friends...

Judith Cohn, Director of the UMDNJ-G.F. Smith Library of the Health Sciences in Newark, announces that annual borrowing privileges are now available as a benefit of membership in a new organization, the Friends of the George F. Smith Library. Other basic privileges include private previews of book sales; invitations to lectures, receptions, and special events; and a subscription to The Smith Library
Chronicles, a quarterly newsletter, containing information on new library programs and services. Basic membership fees begin at $75. Naming opportunities are also available for an event, workstation, study carrel, electronic equipment or resource. Brochures outlining dues and benefits will be mailed shortly to all MHSNJ members. Your participation is very welcome!

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Historical Herbals Exhibit and Lecture Series

“Foxglove, Featherfew and Candleberry: Herbals from the UMDNJ Libraries’ History of Medicine Collection,” is a new exhibit at the UMDNJ-Smith Library in Newark. The display features rare and antiquarian herbals from Special Collections, many of which were given to the Libraries by The Academy of Medicine of New Jersey.

A lecture series with the theme of “Herbals in Medical History” will be held during the fall in conjunction with the exhibit. “Herbal Medicines in Nigeria” will be discussed by Thurman E. Hunt, MD, on September 26; Helen Sheehan, PhD, will present “History of Classical Medical Systems in India: Ayurveda and Unani in Hyderabad” on October 31; and Karen Reeds, PhD, will discuss “Renaissance Medical Students and Their Books” on November 21. All lectures will take place in the afternoon and pre-registration is required.

The exhibit remains on display until February 1997. For additional information about the exhibit or to register for the lecture series, contact UMDNJ Libraries, Special Collections at (201) 982-6293 or 982-7830.

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A Brief Visit to the Leprosy Museum in Bergen, Norway
by Frank F. Katz, PhD*

The Leprosy Museum is located in Bergen at Kong Oscarsgate 59, just a short walk from the central train station (Jernbanestasjonen). It is described in The Official Bergen Guide, obtained from the local tourist office, and clearly indicated in the map in that booklet and other brochures. It is not, however, included in standard travel guides that we used. It was, therefore, thought that the readers of this newsletter might be interested in information about the museum.

The building is what remains of St. Jørgens (George's) Hospital, an establishment which served as a leprosarium. St. George, incidentally, is the patron saint of Scandinavian lepers. While the hospital's history goes back to 1411, the current structure -- and then only part of that -- is from 1702. St. Jørgens did not receive
leprosy patients after 1896 and ceased operations as a leprosarium in 1946 upon the deaths of the last two patients.

The museum is one of the three divisions of a foundation -- the Armauer Hansen Commemorative Rooms, the Leprosy Museum of Bergen, and the Museum of Medical History -- affiliated with the University of Bergen. There are good reasons for locating such a museum here. In the past, Norway had a significant number of cases of leprosy and Bergen had researchers who made exceedingly important contributions to our knowledge of the disease.

From the files of the National Leprosy Registry of Norway, maintained in the Armauer Hansen Commemorative Rooms, it has been determined that in the middle of the 19th century, as much as three percent of the population of certain areas was afflicted. From a graph displayed in the museum, one can infer that there were about 2,800 cases in Norway in 1856. Moreover, in the 19th century, while the disease was diminishing or disappearing in European and other countries, it "survived" and "even prospered" in Scandinavia.

The Norwegian physicians Daniel Cornelius Danielssen (1815-1894) and Carl Wilhelm Boeck (1805-1875) published a monograph, *On Leprosy*, in 1847 based on Danielssen's scientific studies of patients at St. Jörgens. This work, the first of its kind, was followed by the investigations of the Bergen physician, Gerhard Henrik Armauer Hansen (1841-1912), which resulted in the discovery of leprosy's bacterial etiology in 1873. In recognition of this important finding and with increased awareness of the socially negative implications of the label "leper", there developed the desire and tendency to call this affliction "Hansen's Disease." Moreover, it was determined in 1948 by an International Leprosy Congress that the phrase "leprosy patient" should be used instead of the word "leper."

(*N.B.: For a complete copy of Dr. Katz's paper, please contact him at 67 Lawrence Avenue, West Orange, NJ 07052-3737.)

**MEMBERS' RESEARCH IN PROGRESS IN THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE, 1996**

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<td>Biographical dictionary of early members of the American Philosophical Society to 1769; biography of Thomas Bond (1713-84).</td>
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<td>Francis P. Chinard, MD</td>
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in the era of the market place and “managed” care; A 2300 year old question returns: Is the physician a maker of money or a healer of the sick?

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<td>Fred B. Rogers, MD</td>
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<td>Richard P. Wedeen, MD</td>
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The Newsletter of the Medical History Society of New Jersey is published in October and May by the Society and is a benefit of membership. The deadline for the next newsletter is April 1, 1997. Correspondence and submissions may be addressed to:

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