

Medical History Society of New Jersey

Two Princess Road, Lawrenceville, New Jersey 08648

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Newsletter

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The second year has been successful and there has been increasing participation of the membership. Programs have been excellent, using a pool of speakers from New Jersey and out of state.

The spring meeting was held on May 20, 1981 at the Academy of Medicine in Lawrenceville. The first paper was ST. APPOLONIA'S CHILDREN, a brief account of the history of dentistry in the United States given by Dr. Milton B. Asbell, a member of our Society. The second paper, NINETEENTH CENTURY DRUG THERAPY, a computer analysis of a part of the 1854 prescription file of a Burlington, N.J. pharmacy was given by Professor David L. Cowen, also a member of our Society. The co-authors were Drs. Nicholas G. Lordi and Louis D. King. Following the luncheon, the Second Annual Morris H. Saffron lecture was delivered by Professor Lloyd G. Stevenson, Director of the Institute of History of Medicine at Johns Hopkins University. The title of the paper was THE TYPHOID PATTERN.

The fall meeting was held at the New Jersey Historical Society in Newark on October 14, 1981. The first paper, MEDICAL ANTIQUES AND ARTEFACTS, was given by Dr. Paul B. Sheldon of Princeton. It was a glimpse of his personal collection with an exposition on the use and history of some of the armamentarium of our father's day. The second paper, WILLIAM OSLER, (A MAN AND NOT A GOD) was given by Dr. Harry Bloch, a member of our Society. Following refreshments, the third paper, POSTCARDS AS A RESOURCE FOR THE SOCIAL HISTORY OF MEDICINE AND PHARMACY was given by Dr. William H. Helfand. The last paper, AMERICAN MEDICAL IMPRINTS, 1820-1910, was given by Dr. Francesco Cordasco.

The first 1982 meeting will be THE PHYSICIAN AS POET, to be held at Bergen Pines County Hospital, East Ridgewood Avenue, Paramus on Wednesday, January 6 starting at 9:00 A.M. The speakers will be Dr. Louis F. Bishop on OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES and Dr. William B. Ober on WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS. The meeting will be adjourned at 11:00 A.M.

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EDUCATIONAL CREDIT

Professor Cowen announced that category I educational credit for physicians will be applied for at all regularly scheduled meetings of our Society. For example, the meeting at Newark on October 14, 1981 was credited with 2 1/2 hours.

PUBLICATIONS

Two publications by Dr. Morris Saffron are of interest to New Jersey Medical Historians. NEW JERSEY or MASSACHUSETTS? published in the JAMA, 246:2031-2, May 22/29, 1981. This short and concise paper proves that the Medical Society of New Jersey is indeed the oldest state medical society in our country. A HISTORY of THE ACADEMY of MEDICINE of NEW JERSEY 1911-1981, published by the Academy reveals the generally unknown but important role played by the Academy. Of unusual interest is a paper A NOTE ON PHARMACEUTICAL LITERATURE.... in Beiträge zur Geschichte der Pharmazie, 31,84-5, 1981.

MEMBERSHIP

Interested and active members are needed to participate in our programs. They are most likely to be found by our members, among their friends and historically oriented acquaintances. Enclosed are two membership applications. Do a friend a favor. Pass them along to the like-minded. Membership dues are \$15.00 yearly.

HISTORICAL RESOURCES

New Jersey is a potentially fruitful ground. Many important discoveries in the health sciences had their origin here. Company, county, or state archives may be a potential gold mine. Dig into them and start your own research project. Call upon any of the membership for aid and guidance.

COMMITTEES

Members are urged to make their interests known for membership and participation on the existing committees or the formation of other committees for special and specific purposes.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Please forward abstracts of papers for the May 12, 1982 meeting to the MHSNJ at Lawrenceville.

Peter J. Guthorn, M.D., F.A.C.S.
President

1982 DUES ARE DUE

Please use enclosed bill in paying your 1982 dues.