



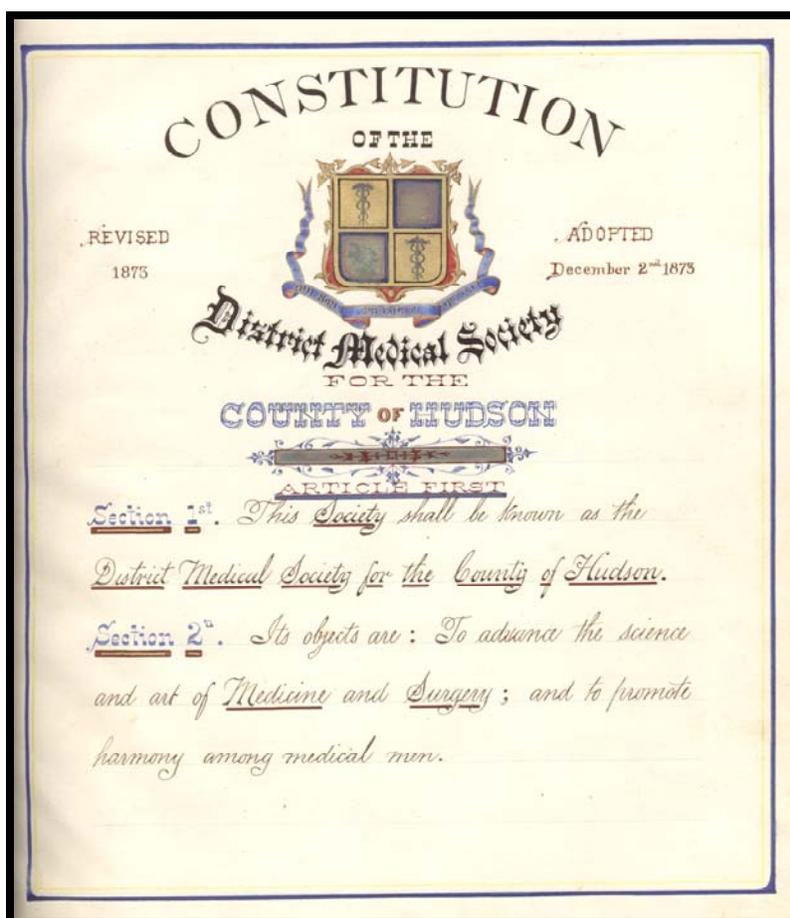
Medical History Society of New Jersey

c/o UMDNJ – Special Collections
George F. Smith Library of the Health Sciences
30 Twelfth Ave., P.O. Box 1709, Newark, NJ 07101-1709
Phone: 973-972-7830
Email: vietrora@umdnj.edu
Web site: www.mhsnj.org

October 2010

NEWSLETTER

Volume 30 Number 2



Historical records recently received from County Medical Societies: This beautiful hand-colored 1873 Constitution of the Hudson County Medical Society only hints at the rich resources available in two substantial collections of records created by two New Jersey County Medical Societies. UMDNJ – Special Collections thanks Dr. Vijay Gupta of the Passaic County Medical Society and Dr. Donald Cinotti of the Hudson County Medical Society for their efforts in preserving and making available the rich documentary heritage of their organizations. Once fully accessioned and processed, these collections will permit greater historical understanding of the institutions and individuals involved in New Jersey medicine from the mid-19th through early 21st centuries.

**EIGHTH UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY OF NEW JERSEY
FOUNDATION LECTURE**

The fall meeting of the Medical History Society of New Jersey will be held on Wednesday, October 27, at The Nassau Club in Princeton. Dr. Cynthia A. Connolly will present the Eighth University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey Foundation Lecture, entitled "Saving Sickly Children: The Tuberculosis Preventorium in American Life, 1909-1970." Dr. Connolly is Associate Professor of Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. Her book of the same title was published by Rutgers University Press in 2008, and won the 2008 American Association for the History of Nursing Lavinia Dock Award for Exemplary Historical Research and Writing. MHSNJ past president Frederick C. Skvara, M.D. will display medical philately related to the program. Registration begins at 3:30 pm, and the program begins at 4 pm.

MHSNJ Business Meeting

Kenneth E. Swan, M.D., President

**For Want of a Tourniquet, the War Was Won:
The Death of Albert Sidney Johnston at the Battle of Shiloh**

Kenneth E. Swan, M.D., Department of Surgery, UMDNJ-NJMS

Self Publishing in the History of Medicine: A Tale of Two Manuscripts

Alan Rushton, M.D., Ph.D., Pediatrics and Medical Genetics, Flemington, N.J.

A Beeline Through Sir Peter James Kerley's Life

Thillai Sekar, A.B., Fourth-Year Student, UMDNJ-NJMS

Kenneth E. Swan, M.D., Department of Surgery, UMDNJ-NJMS (mentor)

**St. Beth Memorial County General University Hospital CenterSystem:
Opportunities in New Jersey Hospital History**

Robert Vietrogoski, M.L.S.

Special Collections Librarian, UMDNJ-Smith Library

Cocktails and Dinner (6-7:30 pm)

Medical Stamp Exhibit – Frederick C. Skvara, M.D.

Eighth University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey Foundation Lecture:

Saving Sickly Children:**The Tuberculosis Preventorium in American Life, 1909-1970**

Cynthia A. Connolly, Ph.D., R.N., P.N.P.

Associate Professor of Nursing

University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing

Members, students, and friends are invited to attend the dinner meeting. Cost is \$50/members, \$58/guests; advance registration is required. For information, contact: MHSNJ, c/o UMDNJ Special Collections, G.F. Smith Library, 30 Twelfth Avenue, P.O. Box 1709, Newark, NJ 07101-1709, or contact vietrora@umdnj.edu or sandra.moss3@verizon.net.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Dr. Peter Carmel, Chairman of the Department of Neurological Surgery at New Jersey Medical School and a life member of the MHSNJ, was recently elected president-elect of the American Medical Association, and will become President of the AMA in June 2011. Congratulations!

Vincent Cirillo, Ph.D., published a book review of Mariola Espinosa's *Yellow Fever and the Limits of Cuban Independence, 1878-1930* (University of Chicago Press, 2009) in *Medical History* 54 (4): 547-548.

Dr. George Hill's recent lectures and presentations have included "Barry Prystowsky, M.D.: Compassionate Physician and Far-Sighted Leader," at the presentation of the Distinguished Health Care Service Award to Dr. Prystowsky in Clifton in June 2010; "Leeches and Privies: Medical Events in the Year of the Magna Carta," to the New Jersey Medical Club in West Orange in September 2010; and "History of Medicine" to the New Jersey Medical School Pre-Med Honors Program in Newark in October 2010. His forthcoming lectures include "From the Quill Pen to the Computer: The History of Medicine in Essex County, New Jersey, Continued," Second Annual Founders Day Lecture, Essex County Medical Society, in Livingston on November 17, 2010; presentations on health careers to several Newark High Schools in January 2011; and "Colonial-Era Medicine," at the Ferry Slip Museum in Perth Amboy, to be given in colonial Navy uniform on February 6, 2011.

Ellen Mandel, D.M.H., M.P.A., PA-C, presented "The House of God – Revisited" at the American Academy of Physician Assistants national conference in Atlanta in May 2010. She employed the classic 1978 medical novel to compare and contrast the "hidden curriculum" then and now. She was also honored as the Outstanding Physician Assistant Educator of the Year by the New Jersey State Society of Physician Assistants during National PA Week on October 6, 2010 in Princeton. Congratulations!

Dr. Sandra Moss is completing her manuscript "The Country Practitioner" in preparation for both print publication and submission to the MHSNJ website. She is also serving on the program committee for the American Osler Society meeting in Philadelphia in spring 2011. As this newsletter goes to press, she is also serving as mother of the groom in Houston. Congratulations!

Dr. Michael Nevins's new book on Abraham Flexner is in press and should be available this November. For a brief essay entitled "Who Was Abraham Flexner & Why Now a Book About Him?", contact Dr. Nevins at mnevmd@att.net. He will also be chairing a bioethics symposium, "Caring for Patients at the End-of-Life: Facing an Uncertain Future Together," at Bergen Regional Medical Center in Paramus on December 9, 2010. His opening talk is entitled, "How We Die in New Jersey: Past, Present, Future."

Dr. Steven J. Peitzman's article "The Flame Photometer as Engine of Nephrology" appeared in the *American Journal of Kidney Diseases*, August 2010, 56(2):379-86. In his words, "It will probably be of interest only to renal people, and not many of them." He lectured to first-year students of Drexel University College of Medicine in August and September on the "real" Hippocratic Oath; the histories of Drexel's antecedent schools; and medical students as dissectors. With a newly kindled interest in the evolution of anatomical art, he also added a talk on this subject within the Drexel elective course "Cutting Cold Flesh: Perspectives from the

Humanities” and called it “Glorious Nudes and Praying Skeletons.” He is also serving on the local arrangements committees of the American Association for the History of Medicine and American Osler Society, both meeting in Philadelphia in spring 2011.

Karen Reeds, Ph.D., will be presenting four talks in the next month! On October 23, she will present “‘This remedy universally extolled’: Pehr Kalm on New Medicines for New Sweden,” at the 10th Annual New Sweden History Conference held at Bartram's Garden in Philadelphia. See page 6 for more details. On November 3, she will present “The Herbals in John Ray's Bookcase,” at the Society for the History of Natural History meeting in Cambridge, England, honoring the 350th anniversary of John Ray's “Catalogue of Cambridge Plants,” the first English “County Flora.” See www.shnh.org.uk for more details. On November 9, she will present “St. John's Wort and Melancholy in the Age of Paracelsus and the Great Herbals” at the Columbia University Seminar on the Renaissance. On November 17, she will be presenting “Deadly Epidemic Strikes New Jersey!” at East Jersey Olde Towne Village. See page 12 for details.

Brian Regal, Ph.D., Assistant Professor for the History of Science in the Department of History at Kean University, will be presenting a free lecture, “Where Have all the Werewolves Gone? Evolution and Monsters,” at 3 pm on Thursday, October 28 at the Liberty Hall Carriage House on Morris Avenue just across from the Kean main campus in Union. Call 908-737-4250 for further details. His book *Searching for Sasquatch: Crackpots, Eggheads, and Cryptozoology* will be published by Palgrave-Macmillan in March 2011.

Amit Sharma, B.A., UMDNJ-NJMS (4th year) and Dr. Kenneth Swan have had their paper concerning the life and story of Jean-Nicolas Marjolin entitled “Marjolin's Warty Ulcer” accepted for publication in the *Journal of Surgical Oncology*.

Dr. Frederick C. Skvara continues to edit and publish *Scalpel & Tongs: American Journal of Philately*, covering all aspects of medical history in philately. The quarterly journal is printed loose-leaf in full color. For further information, contact Frederick C. Skvara, P.O. Box 6228, Bridgewater, NJ 08807. Telephone: 908-725-0928. Email: fcskvara@optonline.net.

Dr. Kenneth Swan has collaborated with NJMS medical students on several historical manuscripts in press, including Jun Tashiro's profile of Abraham Levin for the *Journal of Trauma*, Thillai Sekar's profile of Sir Peter Kerley for the *American Journal of Roentgenology*, and “George Fowler: Brooklyn's Pioneer Surgeon,” with Mary Kelleher and her father, Denis, for *Annals of Surgery*.

Dr. Richard Wedeen will be presenting a poster at the Collegium Ramazzini meeting in Carpi, Italy, on October 23, and has recently published “The Lead Industry and Public Health: The Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics (AOEC) Panel on Management of Lead Exposed Adults (2001-2005)” in the *European Journal of Oncology*.

Dr. Allen Weisse hosted the 7th Annual Weisse Lecture on the History of Medicine on September 28, at UMDNJ – Newark. Dr. David K.C. Cooper, Professor of Surgery at the University of Pittsburgh's Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute, lectured on “Chris Barnard and the Story of Heart Transplantation.” The lecture and Indian buffet luncheon were enjoyed by a large and appreciative audience which included many MHSNJ members. Dr. Weisse also published “Absolutely the last word on physical diagnosis: Not!” in the *Baylor University Medical Center Proceedings* 23(3):301-303.

BOOK REVIEW

By Dr. Allen B. Weisse

**Genius on the Edge: The Bizarre Double Life of Dr. William Stewart Halstead
by Gerald Imber**

(New York: Kaplan Publishing, 2010.) ISBN: 1607146274 , \$25.95

If one wishes to name a single individual as most responsible for the pre-eminent position of American surgery, it would undoubtedly be William Halsted. It was he who headed surgery at the newly established Johns Hopkins Medical School and Hospital at the turn of the last century and set the pace for the rest of the profession. His approach to the surgical treatment of breast cancer and inguinal hernia, among other ground breaking technical advances, along with his energetic espousal of antiseptic and then aseptic surgery, represented his most important contributions, along with the training of future leading surgeons of the time and the years that followed.

Gerald Imber, a plastic surgeon, has immersed himself in numerous important accounts of this period in order to present a luminous and gripping chapter of medical history. He presents not only a compelling portrait of Halsted but insightful vignettes of others in his circle such as Kelly, Welch, Mall, Osler and, especially, the young Harvey Cushing. Imber draws the reader into the whole exciting atmosphere of medical Baltimore at the time, seemingly without effort.

Halsted's attitudes toward his colleagues, residents, students, and patients are well described. At Hopkins it seems the surgical students learned the craft in spite of rather than because of Halsted, who ignored them when he wasn't terrorizing them and hospital house staff. Nonetheless, he was responsible for recognizing the particular gifts of enough of his assistants to set them on the proper course of surgical research and establish the now long line of Halsted professional descendents.

Imber's writing is, in the main, clear and evocative, although at times repetitive and not always chronologically clear cut. Most disturbing is his adoption of that increasingly common but deplorable practice of eliminating numbered references in the text and offering, instead, at the back of the book some words and their source, leaving it to the reader to find the result of the reference back within the text. For serious scholars engaged in research, this will prove an impediment in attempting to use the book toward such ends.

Despite such caveats, Imber should be applauded for re-creating a critical historical period in American medicine, as well as providing a heck of a good read for anyone who chooses to pick it up and begin turning the pages.

AN EVENT RELATED TO THE BOOK REVIEW

Columbia University Medical Center's Augustus C. Long Health Sciences Library is pleased to announce the first History of the Health Sciences Lecture for the 2010/11 academic year.

Dr. Gerald Imber, Assistant Clinical Professor of Surgery at the Weill Medical College of Cornell University, will present "Genius on the Edge: The Bizarre Double Life of William S. Halsted, the Father of Modern Surgery." Halsted, an 1877 graduate of Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons, went on to become the leading American surgeon of his time and a founder of modern surgery. The students he taught as professor of surgery at Johns Hopkins carried his methods across the nation and created modern academic surgery in the United States. Yet Halsted was also a drug addict, a condition stemming from his early experiments with cocaine. Dr. Imber will tell the story of the two Dr. Halsted's – the brilliant surgeon and the crippled addict.

When: November 16, 2010, at 6 pm; Reception at 5:30.

Where: Room 2, Russ Berrie Medical Pavilion, St. Nicholas Ave. and West 168th Street, New York, NY, 10032.

Free and Open to the Public!

AN EVENT OF INTEREST (happening very soon and relatively nearby)

"Native and Newcomer Medicine in New Sweden, 1638-1750"

The 10th Annual New Sweden History Conference

Saturday, October 23, 2010

Bartram's Garden, 54th and Lindbergh Streets, Philadelphia PA 19143

Morning Presentations, 9:45-noon:

Joel T. Fry, curator, Bartram's Garden, discussing European medical theory and practice of the 17th and 18th centuries. '

Cara Lee Blume, former cultural heritage program manager, Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation, "'Splendid and Miraculous Medicines': Healing Practices of the Lenape People."

Peter R. Christoph, senior editor of the documentary series, New York Historical Manuscripts, "The Barber-Surgeons of New Netherland - and, Probably, New Sweden."

Afternoon Presentation, 1:00-1:40 pm:

Karen M. Reeds, independent historian of science and medicine, "'This remedy universally extolled': Pehr Kalm on New Medicines for New Sweden."

Optional tour of Bartram's Garden with Joel Fry, emphasizing medicinal plants and their uses.

Cost: \$40 per person (\$30 for teachers and students).

Additional information and registration form: www.americanswedish.org/frames.htm
(click on Events Calendar)

NEW JERSEY MEDICAL HISTORY ESSAY

Treating the “Sun Starved” at Bergen Pines

By Dr. Michael Nevins

At the beginning of the 20th century, there was growing realization in Bergen County of a need for a hospital both for tuberculosis, which was the leading cause for death, as well as for other communicable diseases. Plans had been debated for decades until in 1910 county physicians petitioned the Freeholders for action, public support was solicited and several sites explored. Finally the Freeholders selected twenty acres from a 102 acre site originally purchased in 1851 to establish a poorhouse farm. The first building was begun in 1914, designed to accommodate thirty patients, but wasn't opened until an infantile paralysis epidemic in the summer of 1916 overwhelmed the closest isolation hospital in Paterson and the wood-frame building was rushed to completion.

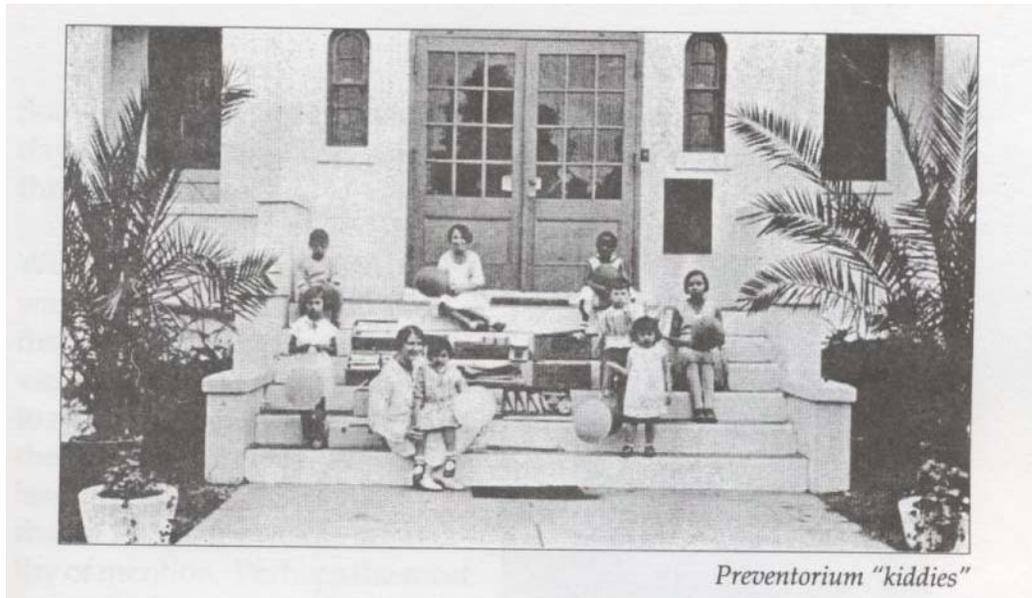
During the early 1920s several “pavilions” were constructed in Spanish Mission style to house patients with small pox (Building 1), scarlet fever (Building 2) and tuberculosis (Building 3.) In 1924, the Bergen County Isolation Hospital was renamed Bergen Pines to acknowledge a donation of more than one thousand young pine trees by a Masonic Club in Hackensack. The trees not only enhanced the campus's appearance but were believed “to add to the health of the patients.”

In 1906, the New Jersey Association for the Relief and Prevention of Tuberculosis had initiated legislation which permitted counties to establish their own sanatoria for underprivileged people. The first sanatorium in New Jersey, Glen Gardiner, opened in 1907 at Mt. Kipp, and in 1909 a so-called “Preventorium” for vulnerable malnourished tenement children with positive tuberculin skin tests opened in Lakewood, financed by philanthropist Nathan Strauss.

The sanatorium movement which began in Europe in late 19th century was based on the principle that tuberculosis could be treated by rest, fresh air and plenty of sunshine. Health resorts flourished in the mountains of Switzerland, the pine forests of Finland, and in this country were modeled on the famous facility founded in 1884 by Dr. Edward Trudeau in Saranac Lake, New York. Trudeau had cured his own TB by living outdoors in the Adirondacks, and soon patients from far and wide would arrive in Saranac Lake where they lived in “cure cottages” and sat for hours every day on specially designed lounge chairs and in all seasons. Later, thousands of patients flocked to Arizona to bask in the hot desert air. In 1923, *Time* reported that “the sun cure for tuberculosis and undernourished children is becoming a recognized part of modern treatment.”

Robert Koch had identified the tubercle bacillus in 1882 as the “seed” that caused infection, but it was felt that an exposed patient would not develop clinical disease unless the “soil” was receptive. Indeed, there was a moral and social dimension of treatment that was believed would favorably affect susceptibility to disease. Thus, integral to the regimen in sanatoria like Bergen Pines was the notion that the patient had to take responsibility for their own behavior, be it by curtailing spitting or by being frugal, temperate, and disciplined.

Because Building 3 at Bergen Pines could accommodate only 48 TB patients, not nearly enough to meet the need, Building 4 opened in 1926 with another 100 beds and five years later when Building 5 opened it could accommodate 100 more. In addition to infected patients, 20 to 30 “kiddies” were housed in a “Preventorium” in Building 5. These underprivileged children had positive tuberculin tests but no clinical symptoms yet. Building 5 also contained a Preventorium School and physical therapy facilities and in 1933 the “Improved Order of Red Men and Degree of Pocahontas” in Hackensack donated a sun shelter built of bamboo and rattan with a palm leaf thatched roof next to the children’s playground. In 1939 a solarium and therapeutic pool (mainly for polio patients) were built adjacent to Building 5.

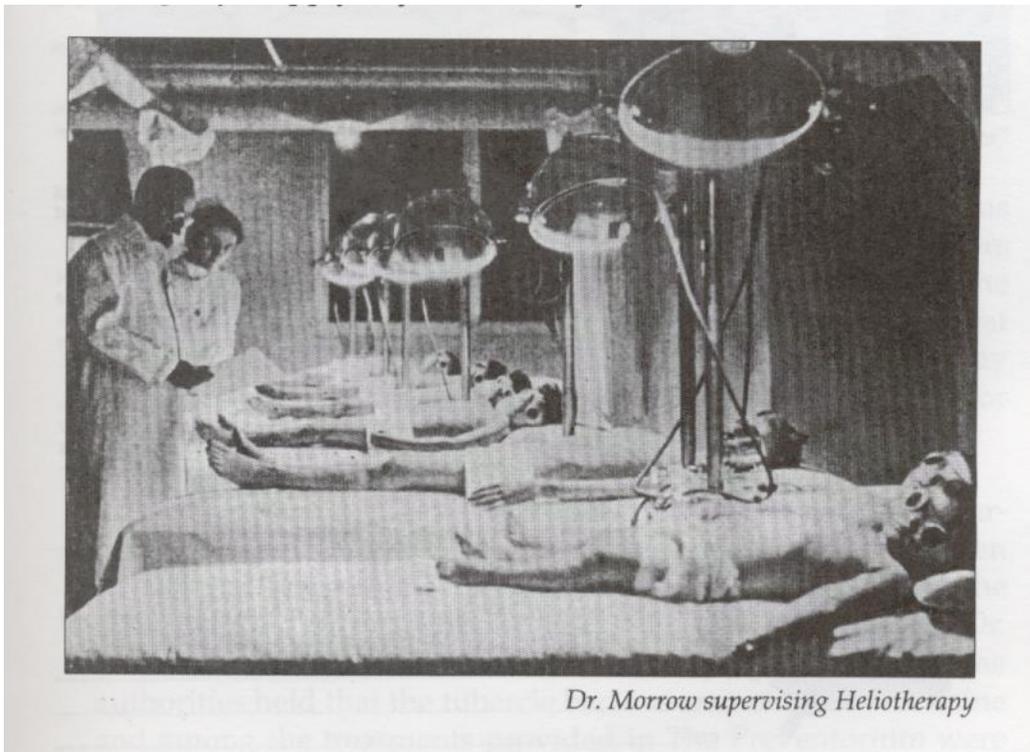


The high water mark was in 1937 when Pavilion 5 was entirely filled with cases of advanced TB, sun parlors were converted into wards to accommodate the overflow and the dietary department and elevators were overtaxed trying to deal with as many as 335 patients. By the time that Building 6 opened in 1938 about 80% of in-patients had tuberculosis with an average length of stay of about 200 days. (Some textbooks maintained that the best results were those obtained after three or four years but few patients could tolerate the enforced program and many signed out before considered to be “cured.”)

The annual report for 1943 noted 742 total admissions (235 to the TB service, 507 to the Contagious Disease Service. There was an average census of 217 patients of whom 185 had tuberculosis. It was a war year and it was difficult to retain or hire staff. The total staff was depleted by 20% compared to before the war and Dr. Morrow, who was approaching the end of his thirty year tenure as Superintendent and Medical Director, had to make do with only four “medical assistants.” In fact, the average length of stay in 1943 of 223 days was down from 333 the previous year. Morrow attributed this to the availability of lucrative jobs so that patients released themselves prematurely and he warned of an “ominous” likely increase in recurrences. More than 16,000 active cases were followed that year in the outpatient clinic and total operating expenses were \$338,795. The hospital relied on community volunteers to work the telephone switchboard, serve meals and scrub floors.

Because Bergen Pines patients included many advanced cases, hospital mortality in 1943 was 40%! Some received radical surgery in the hope that pulmonary infections could be contracted and “walled off.” That year 84 patients had primary pneumothorax procedures (air injected to collapse the lung) with 2,372 repeat procedures. Also 35 thoracoplasties were performed in which the ribs were surgically broken and the rib cage collapsed to permanently achieve the same effect.

The healing properties of sunlight had been celebrated for thousands of years, especially for various skin disorders, and by the early 20th century many medical authorities held that the tubercle bacillus couldn't live in sunshine. So in addition to rest, fresh air and a healthy diet, phototherapy (called “heliotherapy” at Bergen Pines) was an integral part of the regimen. Natural sunlight contains many wavelengths of light, some visible, some not. Of the invisible rays ultraviolet was deemed most beneficial and now it could be delivered more efficiently by electricity, in minutes rather than hours in the sun. In 1943 Bergen Pines offered three modalities: 2,303 patients received “Alpine” treatments; 1,677 had Kromayer lamp phototherapy; 1,677 more received infrared treatment. Alpine rays were prescribed as a “general tonic” while Kromayer rays were thought to be more suitable for “intense focal application.” Rival manufacturers argued the merits of their products, but all agreed that a course of ultraviolet radiation would “set in motion the physiologic process of recovery.”



Batteries of Alpine sun-lamps were shined on the bared bodies not only of TB patients (especially those with non-pulmonary disease) but also of the Preventorium “kiddies.” They lay on parallel litters, their eyes protected by goggles; photographs of the scene look like a science fiction movie. Not only was heliotherapy claimed to “fortify” susceptible people, build resistance against a variety of ailments and provide a general feeling of well-being, but it was also touted as a boon to safeguard the whole family. The Hanovia Alpine sunlamp used at Bergen Pines was manufactured in Newark. One of

their advertisements proclaimed that “sun-starved” bodies cannot be healthy and offered a Home model which could be purchased for \$65:

When you miss your needed ultraviolet, the pep goes out of life, bodily resistance is lowered, and you become more susceptible to disease. A Hanovia Home Model Alpine Sun Lamp brings the vital part of sunlight into your home – gives you the right kind and amount of ultraviolet rays. A few minutes daily with this instrument of science is enough to afford every member of the family the benefit of ultraviolet. The soft, mellow, energy-carrying radiance plays a big part in keeping health up to normal.

When Streptomycin was first introduced at Rutgers in November 1944, TB mortality rapidly declined, from 70 per 100,000 in 1930 to 10 per 100,000 in 1954. Soon other antibiotics were discovered, combined treatment was devised to combat resistance, and few cases required hospitalization any more. Sanitoria throughout the country were closed or converted, and when Building 8 opened in 1952, Bergen Pines was transformed into a general hospital of 363 beds.

Today Building 5 still stands alone but functions as a long-term care unit for Korean residents. The pool is gone and the exterior is being revised. However, it recalls an earlier time when tuberculosis was a universal scourge for which rest, diet, and light, both natural and electric-generated, were the only defense.

Addendum: According to a report in the *NEJM* (September 1, 2010) an estimated 1 million times per day, someone in the United States uses ultraviolet radiation for skin tanning. According to the indoor tanning industry, tanning beds are used by 30 million Americans, or about 10% of the U.S. population, each year.

Images taken from Michael Nevins, *Bergen Pines: A Remembrance of Things Past* (Paramus: Alphagraphics, 1998), pages 31 and 33.

MEMBERS' RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Dr. Francis Chinard is writing his memoirs.

Dr. Sandra Moss is researching the celebrated gunslinger-dentist “Doc” Holliday for a chapter of a book about doctors (and one dentist) who made their names in fields outside medicine. She is also working on biographies of pioneers in rehabilitation medicine Drs. Fred Albee and Henry Kessler. Finally, she is making “ongoing and painfully slow progress” on a book-length biography of 19th-century Newark physician Edgar Holden.

Bob Vietrogoski, MLS is researching African-American students in pre-Civil War American medical education for his MPH thesis at the Center for the History and Ethics of Public Health at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health.

THE USUAL EDITORIAL FINISH :)

The Newsletter of the Medical History Society of New Jersey is published in May and October by the Society, and is a benefit of membership. Short articles on medical history topics are especially welcome. Please send comments, suggestions, and submissions to vietrora@umdnj.edu, or call 973-972-7830.

Thanks to Contributors: Vincent Cirillo, George Hill, Ellen Mandel, Sandra Moss, Michael Nevins, Steven Peitzman, Karen Reeds, Amit Sharma, Frederick Skvara, Kenneth Swan, Richard Wedeen, and Allen Weisse.

ONGOING EXHIBIT ANNOUNCEMENT

**Call the Doctor!
Call the Nurse!**

History of Medicine
in New Jersey
1775 - 1975

Cornelius Iow House
Middlesex County Museum

1225 River Road
Piscataway

May 2, 2010
through
June 26, 2011

Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 8:30 am - 4:15 pm
Public Hours: Tuesday - Friday & Sunday 1 - 4 pm
Closed: Monday, Saturday & Holidays

School & Group Tours Welcome
Phone: 732.745.4177
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NEW JERSEY HISTORY OF MEDICINE LECTURE SERIES

Middlesex County
Cultural & Heritage Commission
and the

Cornelius Low House
Middlesex County Museum
present

**Call the Doctor!
Call the Nurse!**

**History of Medicine
in New Jersey
1775 - 1975**

Lecture Series

to be held at
East Jersey Olde Towne Village
1050 River Road, Piscataway

7 pm ♦ Wednesday ♦ October 13, 2010
7 pm ♦ Wednesday ♦ November 17, 2010
7 pm ♦ Wednesday ♦ April 13, 2011

to be held at
Cornelius Low House
1225 River Road, Piscataway
6 pm ♦ Wednesday ♦ May 11, 2011

All Lectures are Free of Charge
Registration Required



Deadly Epidemic Strikes New Jersey!
The History Behind the Headlines

Karen Reeds

7 pm

Wednesday ♦ November 17, 2010
East Jersey Olde Towne Village

Today's New Jersey residents have faced swine flu, West Nile, Lyme disease, anthrax, and AIDS. In past centuries, it was outbreaks of cholera, smallpox, polio, diphtheria, malaria, and Spanish flu that struck fear in New Jersey communities. How did families cope? What can we learn from their experience? How have New Jersey doctors, nurses, and scientists fought these terrifying diseases? Take a look behind the headlines into the past, present, and future of epidemics.

Karen Reeds, PhD, is the author of *A State of Health: New Jersey's Medical Heritage, Botany in Medieval and Renaissance Universities*, co-author of *Today's Medicine, Tomorrow's Science* and many articles and book reviews. She contributed entries on medicine and public health to the *Encyclopedia of New Jersey* and *Mapping New Jersey*. She has served as curator for exhibitions at the New Jersey Veterans' Museum, Rutgers University, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, New Jersey State Museum, and American Swedish Historical Museum of Philadelphia. Her research interests range from medieval herbals to the modern biomedical sciences.

Future lectures in the series include Anna N. Dhody, curator of the Mutter Museum in Philadelphia, presenting "Archaeo-Forensics" at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, April 13, 2011 at East Jersey Olde Towne Village, and Karen Reeds and John Swoboda conducting "A Yardful of Remedies!," a walking tour of medicinal plants on the grounds of the Cornelius Low House at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, May 11, 2011.

Philatelic Sketches in Medicine

Frederick C. Skvara, M.D.

Saint Apollonia, Patron Saint of Dentistry & Toothaches

In 1952 Switzerland began issuing a set of semipostal stamps yearly to raise funds promoting Swiss culture. Named the Pro Patria ('For the Fatherland') series, they are issued in the spring and have shown a wide variety of topics. In 2007 the subject was "Cultural Routes in Switzerland" and of the set of four stamps depicting scenes along these routes — Via Jacobi, Via Jura, Via Gottardo and Via Cook — one of these routes has a definite medical connection. The Via Jacobi ('The Way of St. James') is part of the European Jakobsweg (Route of St. James) that runs from Constance and Rorschach on the shores of Lake Constance in northeast Switzerland through Einsiedeln in east central Switzerland (birthplace of Paracelsus) and along the foot of the Alps to Geneva. Beginning in the late Middle Ages, it was used by pilgrims traveling to Santiago de Compostela in northwest Spain, the site of a twelfth century cathedral said to contain the tomb of the apostle St. James. Along this route there were a series of chapels and hostels where the pilgrims could rest and pray. The stamp shows part of the route known as the Torenöli, a cobble path cut into sandstone that is located in Schwarzenburg in the Canton of Bern. The inset on the stamp shows a small chapel, the Chapel of St. Appollonia in Ste. Apolline located in the municipality of Matran in the Canton of Fribourg. The chapel is next to the Ste. Apolline bridge over the River Glâne. Although the chapel is known to have existed from the twelfth century, the present structure dates from 1566 when it was rebuilt after a fire destroyed the original structure. In 1992 during restoration of the bridge and chapel, large numbers of decayed teeth were uncovered at the site.



Via Jacobi and Chapel of Saint Apollonia. Switzerland 2007

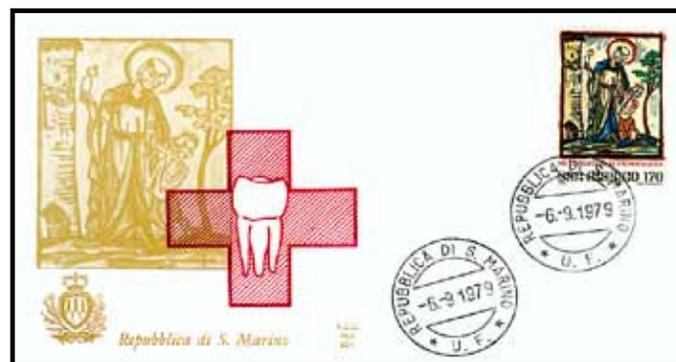
to

Now we come to the personage for whom the chapel was named and for whom a number of chapels and religious sites have been named throughout Europe. Born in Alexandria, Egypt, in the third century with the name of Dina, she was baptized Apollonia and became a nun devoting herself to missionary work. Egypt at this time was part of the Roman Empire and in A.D. 244 Marcus Julius Philippus (Philip the Arab (c. 202–249) became emperor. The year 248 had a special significance for Rome as it marked 1000 years since its founding in 753 B.C. and a number of celebrations were carried out to commemorate the event. Unfortunately, because of a prophecy by one of the Roman poets that a great calamity was about to befall the empire, riots broke out and the Christians in Alexandria were attacked by mobs of citizens opposed to their faith.

Apollonia, an elderly deaconess during this period, was captured and tortured to renounce her faith and embrace the Roman gods. Repeatedly struck in the face she had her teeth knocked out and her jaw broken. Threatened to be burnt alive, she was again asked to denounce christianity, but instead, after a short prayer, threw herself onto the burning pyre and martyred herself in 249. Approximately fifty years later she was canonized with her feast day established as February 9. She is considered the patron saint of dentistry and toothaches and is often depicted holding a tooth as can be seen in the accompanying stamps.



Saint Apollonia. Austria 1982 [Issued for the 70th Annual World Congress of Dentists in Vienna]



Saint Apollonia from a 14th century woodcarving that is in the Wessler Collection at the Royal School of Dentistry in Stockholm, Sweden. San Marino 1979 [Issued for the 13th Biennial International Congress of Stomatology]