



Medical History Society of New Jersey

Two Princess Road, Lawrenceville, New Jersey 08648

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NEWSLETTER

Volume 4 No. 1

January, 1984

Our fourth year found the Society flourishing in all respects: activities, accomplishments and membership. The Society now boasts a membership of 99.

During 1983, the Society held three meetings. On January 12, the Society met in the History of Medicine Room of the George F. Smith Library, UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School in Newark. Four papers were presented: Linda Holmes on "The Alabama Granny Midwife: Historical Contribution to the Health of Child-Bearing Women," Allen Weisse, M.D., on "Conversations with Greatness: Five Years on the Trail of 20th Century American Medical History," Stuart Sammis on "Newark City Hospital - 100 Years: A Pictorial Essay" and Carter Marshall, M.D., on "The Plague in 17th Century London."

On May 18, the annual business meeting was held at the Academy of Medicine of New Jersey in Lawrenceville. The minutes of that meeting have been circulated, actions (and subsequent actions) pertaining to the Society's logo, the student prize and the oral history project are noted below.

The program for the May meeting included two papers, William J. Sharpe, M.D. on "Preliminary Survey of Yellow Fever in West Jersey During the 18th Century," and Helen D. Blank, "The Embattled General Practitioner: New York City, 1880-1920." The Fourth Annual Morris H. Saffron Lecture was presented by Whitfield J. Bell, Ph.D., Executive Officer of the American Philosophical Society. He spoke on "Some Early American Medical Societies."

On October 12, the Society met in the UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School Basic Science Building in Newark. Four papers were presented: Harry Bloch, M.D., on "Causality and Medical Historiography," Estelle Brodman, Ph.D., on "A Medical Dynasty in a Small New Jersey Town," Sam Alewitz, Ph.D., on "The Typhus Epidemic in the Camden County Almshouse in 1880" and Christine Chico, "Osteopaths and the First Legal Recognition in New Jersey."

LOGO

The Logo Committee under the Chairmanship of Philip Rosenstein, has recommended and the Executive Committee has approved the Society's logo which heads this Newsletter.

ORAL HISTORY

The Oral History Committee under the Chairmanship of Stuart Sammis, has interviewed five individuals. Four pertained to "Health Professions in New Jersey during the Great Depression:" Thomas White, M.D., Morris Saffron, M.D. and Linda Holmes, M.B.A., discussed medical education and the socio-economic conditions and professional problems in the delivery of health care during the Depression. James Hillier, Ph.D., who was a co-developer of the electron microscope described his career in Toronto and Camden during the Depression. The fifth interview was with Roy Bowers, Ph.D., Dean Emeritus of the Rutgers University College of Pharmacy. Dr. Bowers described his work in the development of the College of Pharmacy, its removal from Newark to the Piscataway science campus and his recollections of the founding of the Rutgers Medical School.

The Medical History Society of New Jersey has received a grant of \$300.00 from the New Jersey Historical Commission. The grant has been used to cover the transcribing of the interviews. Three have already been transcribed and bound the other two are being processed. The completed transcripts have been placed with the Medical Society of New Jersey in Lawrenceville and with the UMDNJ-N.J. Medical School Archives in Newark where they are available to researchers.

The Committee plans to continue the Great Depression project in 1984 and would welcome leads from the membership for potential subjects for interview. Suggestions may be sent to Stuart Sammis at UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School Archives, 100 Bergen Street, Newark, N.J. 07103 or to Vincent Cirillo at 1387 Joseph Street, North Brunswick, N.J. 08902.

STUDENT PRIZE

An annual prize for the best student paper in the history of medicine has been established. The Committee under the Chairmanship of Robert L. Thompson, Ed.D. will prepare an official announcement for circulation among the potential candidates and their institutions. It has been suggested that the prize be called "The Stephen Wickes Prize" in honor of New Jersey's pioneer historian of medicine. Members who have other suggestions for a name are urged to send them to the committee chairman at UMDNJ-Rutgers Medical School, P.O. Box 55, Piscataway, N.J. 08854.

CANCELLATION OF JANUARY MEETING

Because adequate facilities could not be provided in time at the Cornelius Low House, it has been necessary to cancel the meeting and the program that had been planned for January.

MAY MEETING

The annual business meeting and the fifth Morris H. Saffron Lecture will be held at the Academy of Medicine Headquarters in Lawrenceville on May 9, 1984. As previously announced, the Morris H. Saffron Lecturer will be the eminent historian of medicine, Lester S. King, M.D., whose tentative topic is "When

Did Medicine Become Scientific?"

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Program Committee has issued a call for papers for the May meeting. Please send abstracts to the program chairman, Francis P. Chinard, M.D., UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School, 100 Bergen Street, Newark, N.J. 07103.

NEW OFFICERS

New officers are to be elected at the May 1984 meeting. A nominating committee has been appointed consisting of Peter Guthorn, Chairman, Morris Saffron, Russell McIntyre and Stuart Sammis. In accordance with the Constitution, the Nominating Committee will present a slate to the membership at least one month before the meeting. Members are encouraged to make recommendations to the committee chairman at 825 Rathjen Road, Brielle, N.J. 08730

AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

It is proposed to amend the Constitution so that the clause that reads " There shall also be two or more additional meetings each year called by the President. . . ." will be changed to : "There shall be an additional meeting each year and such other meeting or meetings that the President shall call...."

This would mean that in addition to the annual business meeting in May, there will be only one meeting required, although the President may call for additional meetings.

Since the usual procedures for the amendment of a constitution do not apply to our Society, this is to advise the membership that the amendment will be accepted if approved by a majority vote of those members present at the meeting next May. If there are any objections to either the amendment or this procedure, please advise the President, David L. Cowen, 186-C Malden Lane, Rossmoor, Jamesburg, N.J. 08831.

NEWS OF MEMBERS, 1983

Stewart F. Alexander, M.D., and Michael A. Nevins, M.D. were the authors of "Home Care Delivery in Bergen County in the 19th Century," Journal of the Medical Society of New Jersey 80 (1983) 283-287. Their paper had originally been presented at the May 12, 1982 meeting of the MHSNJ.

Harry Bloch, M.D., was the author of "William Charles Wells, M.D., F.R.S. 1757-1817, an American Physician-Scientist America Almost Forgot," New York State Journal of Medicine 83 (1983) 248-249 and "Caste, the Blight of Adolescence," Journal of the National Medical Association 75 (1983) 457-458.

Estelle Brodman, Ph.D., spent one month last summer in Manila, the Philippines and Canberra, Australia at the request of the WHO as a "consultant to evaluate a survey of information needs and develop a plan of action for the Regional Biomedical Information Programme" for the Western Pacific Region of the WHO. She stopped in Geneva on her way over for a briefing at WHO Headquarters and returned via Tokyo, where she met with some of her former students at Keio University where she had taught.

Vincent J. Cirillo's paper on "Nineteenth Century Views on Blood Fluidity," presented at the October, 1982 meeting of the MHSNJ, has been published in the Journal of the Medical Society of New Jersey 80 (1983) 535-539.

David L. Cowen was the author of "Tying the Knot-Secundum Artem," New Jersey Journal of Pharmacy (March 1983) 6; "The Trustees Garden at Savannah," Georgia Pharmacist Quarterly 60 No. 2 (1983) 5,3; "The Nineteenth Century German Immigrant and American Pharmacy," in P. Dilg (ed), Perspektiven der Pharmaziegeschichte: Festschrift für Rudolf Schmitz (Graz, Austria, 1983) pp. 13-28; "The History of Pharmacy and the History of the Jews," in H.-R. Fehlmann and F. Ledermann (eds.) Festschrift für A. Lutz and J. Büchi (Zürich, 1983), pp. 67-83; and with H.H. Helfand, the article noted below. In June he was made an honorary member of the Spanish Society for the History of Pharmacy and in September, he was awarded the Schelenz Plaque by the International Society for the History of Pharmacy for his contributions to the discipline. The award was made at the International Congress for the History of Pharmacy held in Washington. At the Congress, he gave the invitational address to the Academie Internationale d'Histoire de la Pharmacie on "Pharmacy and Freedom." He also participated in the invitational symposium in the history of the materia medica where he presented a paper on "The Impact of the Materia Medica of North American Indians on Professional Practice."

Elsalyn Drucker has been appointed President for 1983-1984 of the 200- member Monmouth Librarians Association and has also been chosen as Archivist for the Health Sciences Library Association of New Jersey which represents 142 health science institutions in the state. She has received a New Jersey Historical Commission grant-in-aid for the production of an audiovisual presentation entitled, "Ann May School of Nursing: A Visual History, 1904-1982," She has also presented a paper entitled, "Nursing Archives: Resources for the History of Nursing" at the first conference sponsored by the Nursing Library Resources Section of the Health Sciences Library Association of New Jersey held at the Helene Fuld School of Nursing in Camden. She was also a member of the 15-person contingent sent by the Jersey Shore Medical Center to participate in the National Corporate Cup Relays held in Palo Alto, California in July.

Gerald N. Grob, Ph.D., continues his studies of the history of mental illness in the United States with the publication of Mental Illness and American Society, 1875-1940, published by the Princeton University Press. He was the author of "Diseases and Environment in American History" in D. Mechanic (ed.), Handbook of Health, Health Care and the Health Professions published by the Free Press, pp. 3-22 and of "Historical Origins of Deinstitutionalization," in L.L. Bachrach (ed.), Deinstitutionalization (New Directions for Mental Health Series) No. 17, Jossey-Bass, pp. 15-29.

Peter J. Guthorn, M.D., was the author of "Captain Paul Pinkham, Nantucket Hydrographer," The American Neptune, Jan. 1983, 51-55, and "American 19th Century American Charts and their Makers, Part I," The Map Collector, June 1983, 14-21.

William H. Helfand, D.Sc., was among those who arranged the exhibition at the Yale University School of Medicine called "The American Medicine Show." The exhibition opened in December, will be mounted until February. With a few exceptions, the materials on exhibit were taken from Dr. Helfand's collection. Dr. Helfand's J.T. Orenstein Memorial Lecture presented at the Adler Museum of the History of Medicine, University of Witwatersrand, Parktown, South Africa in September 1982 has been published in the Adler Museum Bulletin, April, 1983, 13-20 and June, 1983 3-11. He has also co-authored with S. Rocchietta,

Medicina e Farmacia nelle Caricature Politiche Italiane, 1848-1914 (Edizione Scientifiche Internazionali, Milan) with J. Crellin, "Picture Postcards: A Resource for the Social History of Pharmacy," Pharmacy in History 25 (1983) 116-130, and with D.L. Cowen, "Evolution of Pharmaceutical Oral Dosage Forms," Ibid., 3-18.

Fred B. Rogers, M.D., was the author of "The Meaning of Life: An Essay on the Theories of Carl Jung," Temple University Medical Alumni Bulletin 28 (Winter/Spring, 1983) 15, "A Sidelight on Sir Geoffrey Keynes and William Blake," Transactions and Studies of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia 5 (1983) 129-130, "Charles E. Harris (1868-1947) of Hyannis, Massachusetts: Family Doctor and Friend of Mankind," Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences 38 (1983) 339-342, and "Carl Jung and Self-Realization," Pennsylvania Medicine 86 (1983) 30-32.

DUES

1984 dues are now payable. Please use the enclosed bill when making your payment.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

President	David L. Cowen, M.A.
Vice President	Vincent Cirillo, M.S.
Secretary	Richard P. Wedeen, M.D.
Treasurer	LeRoy H. Stahlgren, M.D.
Counselors	Morris H. Saffron, M.D.
	Peter J. Guthorn, M.D.

The Executive Committee consists of the above officers.

Program Committee:

Francis P. Chinard, M.D., Chairman
Estelle Brodman, Ph.D.
Sherman Garrison, M.D.
Russell L. McIntyre, Th.D.
LeRoy H. Stahlgren, M.D.

Nominating Committee:

Peter J. Guthorn, M.D., Chairman
Morris H. Saffron, M.D.
Stuart K. Sammis, M.A.
Russell L. McIntyre, Th.D.

Oral History Committee:

Stuart K. Sammis, M.A., Chairman
Vincent J. Cirillo, M.S.
Elsalyn F. Drucker, M.S.L.S.
Linda Holmes, M.B.A.
Arthur Krosnick, M.D.

Membership Committee:

Peter J. Guthorn, M.D., Chairman
Sam Alewitz, Ph.D.
Philip Rosenstein, M.A., M.S.

NEW MEMBERS - 1983

Adel Brodkin, Ph.D.
Mario Fiori, M.D.
George Hill, M.D.
Marc Katchen, M.D.
Carter Marshall, M.D.
Mary Mycek
William J. Snape, M.D.
Allen Weisse, M.D.
Meyer T. Weissman, M.D.