



Medical History Society of New Jersey

Two Princess Road, Lawrenceville, New Jersey 08648

(609) 896-1717

NEWSLETTER

Volume 5 No. 1

January, 1985

It is a pleasure to submit this report of progress during 1984 to the membership of the Medical History Society of New Jersey. Our numbers remain at close to 100 and our members have been quite active both in meetings of the Society and in publications of historical interest. An account of the progress and activities follows.

SOCIETY ELECTIONS

At the annual meeting held on May 9th at the Academy of Medicine in Lawrenceville the following officers were elected:

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|-----------------|--------------------|
| President: | Francis P. Chinard |
| Vice-President: | Vincent J. Cirillo |
| Secretary: | Richard P. Wedeen |
| Treasurer: | Estelle Brodman |

and appointed as

| | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| Counselors: | Morris H. Saffron |
| | David L. Cowen |

The newly elected officers are particularly appreciative of the continued counsel and advice that they will be able to receive from Drs. Morris Saffron and David Cowen. These officers together form the Executive Committee. A listing of their addresses and telephone numbers is given at the end of this Newsletter.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee held on October 3, 1984 the following committees were appointed:

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| Membership: | David Cowen, Chairman |
| Program: | Sam Alewitz, Chairman; David L. Cowen, Richard P. Wedeen |
| Oral History: | Stuart Sammis, Chairman; Vincent J. Cirillo, Linda Holmes, Arthur Krosnick |

AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

At the Annual Meeting, the change of the clause reading "There shall be two or more additional meetings each year called by the President..." to "There shall be a meeting each year and such other meeting or meetings that the President shall call..." was approved.

MEETINGS HELD

Annual Meeting, May 9th, 1984 - Lawrenceville. The meeting was well attended and the presentations were followed by lively discussions. The first paper was by Dr. Kenneth G. Swan, Professor of Surgery at the UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School in Newark. His topic was "Noble Prize Winners in Surgery." The second paper was by Dr. Charles Vevier, Professor of Psychiatry also at the UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School. His topic was "The New Medical University." After a pleasant luncheon, Dr. Lester S. King, past senior editor of the Journal of the American Medical Association and past president of the American Association of the History of Medicine, presented the Saffron Lecture for 1984 on "The Development of Science in Medicine."

Jointly sponsored meeting (with Academy of Medicine of New Jersey, Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission and New Jersey Historical Commission, Department of State) on "Public Health in New Jersey" held at Rutgers Medical School on October 20th in Piscataway. This meeting was part of the series "Current Issues in Historical Perspective" of New Jersey Historical Commission. A number of our members participated either as lecturers, commentators or discussants. The meeting was followed by a reception at Cornelius Low House Museum/Middlesex County Museum where an exhibition was on view: "300 Years of Medicine in New Jersey." The exhibition was the theme of a special issue of the Journal of the Medical Society of New Jersey (Vol. 81, No. 9, Sept. 1984).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stephen Wickes Prize. For the best student paper in the history of medicine, an annual prize of \$100.00 is available. The prize memorializes New Jersey's pioneer medical historian. For details, please contact the Chairman of the Student Prize Committee, Dr. Robert L. Thompson, UMDNJ-Rutgers Medical School, P.O. Box 55, Piscataway, N.J. 08854.

Logan Clendening Traveling Fellowship. Fellowships are tenable for three months, are for \$1,000.00 and are open to registered medical students. The Fellowship memorializes the late Dr. Clendening (1884-1945) who was a keen bibliophile and medical historian of international renown. The Fellowship will enable medical students to follow at least two of Dr. Clendening's abiding interests--travel and medical history.

Applicants may elect to travel anywhere in the world for the purpose of studying any aspect of medical history of interest to them.

Details of the proposed projects should be submitted on a special form obtainable from:

Robert P. Hudson, M.D.
Chairman
Department of the History of Medicine
The University of Kansas Medical Center
Kansas City, Kansas 66103

and should be returned no later than March 15, 1985. Applicants will be notified by April 15, 1985. This Fellowship is sponsored by the AAHM.

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

WEDEEN, R.P. Poison in the Pot; the Legacy of Lead. Southern Illinois University Press, Carbondale, 1984.

Weisse, A. Conversations in Medicine - The Story of Twentieth Century American Medicine in the Words of Those Who Created It. New York University Press, New York, 1984.

300 Years of Medicine in New Jersey (The Journal of the Medical Society of New Jersey, Vol. 81, No. 9, September, 1984). Available at \$5.00 from MSNJ, Two Princess Road, Lawrenceville, N.J. 08648. Most of the articles in this special issue are by active members of our Society.

ANNUAL MEETING 1985

The Annual Meeting of the Society will be held on Wednesday, May 8, 1985 at the Academy of Medicine Headquarters in Lawrenceville. The Morris H. Saffron Lecture will be presented at 1:00 P.M. by Gert H. Brieger, M.D., Ph.D., William H. Welch Professor of the History of Medicine at the Institute of the History of Medicine at Johns Hopkins. We are honored to have Dr. Brieger as our guest. Several other short papers will also be presented by members. Please keep the date open.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

The dues statement for 1985 is included with this Newsletter. Members are urged to send in their dues as soon as possible and to correct any arrears that might have occurred. Cooperation in this will be greatly appreciated. So will any comments, criticisms or suggestions that members might wish to make about the Society, its activities and programs.

OFFICERS

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ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE

Summary of 1984 Committee Activities. The Oral History Committee, under the Chairmanship of Stuart Sammis conducted 6 interviews in 1984. With the assistance of Robert Thompson, Ed.D. of the UMDNJ-New Jersey School of Osteopathic Medicine, four senior members of the osteopathic profession were interviewed: Richard Fiege, D.O.; Richard Leedy, Sr., D.O.; Paul Smith, D.O. and David Steinbaum, D.O. These physicians began their careers under the limited licensure law and were active in the passage of the Uniform Medical Practice Act of 1935. An interview with Joseph Gardam, M.D., who was Director of the Contagious Disease Division of the Newark Board of Health for 50 years, was conducted. Vincent Cirillo and Stuart Sammis interviewed David Cowen. Dr. Cowen's reminiscence included his work in the history of pharmacy and the development of Rutgers University as a major educational institution.