

Rhode Island Medical Journal

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Indications: Acute gouty arthritis, rheumatoid spondylitis, osteoarthritis.
Contraindications: Children 14 years of age and younger; patients with active peptic ulceration or ulceration including the duodenum; history of symptomatic asthma; concurrent or persistent dyspepsia; known or suspected presence of drug allergy; blood dyscrasia; renal, hepatic or cardiac dysfunction; severe hypertension; thyroid disease; systemic lupus erythematosus; rheumatoid arthritis and salivary gland enlargement; patients receiving anticoagulant therapy.
Warnings: Age, weight, dosage, renal function, existence of concomitant disease, and concurrent potent chemotherapeutic agents. Carefully observe the individual patient, especially in the elderly (forty years and over). Increased susceptibility to the drug. Use lowest effective dosage. Do not use in patients with potentially unpredictable benefits and

Medical Periodicals of Rhode Island: Part I.

Transactions of the Rhode Island Medical Society

*This Publication Appeared During The
Years 1859 Through 1912*

By James E. Bobick

During the past centuries medical societies have developed considerably, beginning with small gatherings of men with common interests. Some groups have flourished as large organizations with many members, museums, libraries, and other facilities. The growth of these societies has been tremendous, ranging from international and national to local groups and smaller gatherings. They have proved invaluable as centers for discussion and have greatly influenced medical literature.

The Rhode Island Medical Society, founded in 1812, is the eighth oldest state society. Its 150th anniversary was observed in 1962 with the publication of *THE HISTORY OF THE RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY AND ITS COMPONENT SOCIETIES, 1812-1962*. The Rhode Island General Assembly in February approved a petition to charter the state medical society. The organizational meeting of the Society was held in Providence on April 22, 1812, and Amos Throop was elected President. William A. Bowen was elected Librarian and

MR. JAMES E. BOBICK, *Biological and Medical Reference Librarian, Sciences Library, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island.*

This is the first of a three part series. Later installments will cover other Rhode Island medical publications.

Cabinet Keeper. The first annual meeting of the Rhode Island Medical Society was held in Providence at the Court House on September 1, 1812.

FIRST OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

The official journal of the Rhode Island Medical Society began in 1859. In the previous year the Committee on Publication charged the members of the Society to prepare biographical and medical sketches of distinguished deceased members. This project was chaired by Usher Parsons with the aid of Isaac Ray and George L. Collins.

In 1859 a pamphlet of 64 pages with the cover title "Sketches of Rhode Island Physicians, Deceased Prior to 1850: Prepared by Usher Parsons, for the Rhode Island Medical Society" was published, designated on the title page as Volume I of the *Transactions of the Rhode Island Medical Society*.¹ The leaf following the title page contained the further description of "History of the Medical Profession in Rhode Island".²

Pages three to 55 consisted of "Sketches of the Lives of Early Physicians". The entries varied from a single line to several pages. The three lengthiest biographies were for Levi Wheaton (pp. 19-25), Solomon Drowne (pp. 25-34), and David King (pp. 50-55). John Brett was listed as a pupil

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of Boerhaave and one individual who cooperated with Abraham Redwood to establish the Redwood Library in Newport.³ Doctor William Bowen was mentioned as the person who petitioned for the charter to form the Rhode Island Medical Society and was the second President of the new group.⁴

Doctor Caleb Fiske was mentioned "as a former President and a lasting benefactor to this Society".⁵ It was "his intention to provide a fund, the annual income of which is intended to excite competition in the investigation of such medical subjects as the Society may propose for discussion".⁶ The first two awards were presented in 1835 in response to the following questions:⁷

"1. What are the causes and nature of Rheumatism, and the best mode of treatment to be employed therein?

Award of forty dollars to Thomas H. Webb.

2. What are the causes and nature of Purpura Hemorrhagica, and the best mode of treatment to be employed therein?

Award of forty dollars to David King, M.D., of Newport."

Interestingly, it was also David King who performed the first vaccination in the state. The patient was Walter Cornell of Newport, and the date was October 1800.⁸ Integrated with the biographical and medical sketches was substantial material on conditions during the early colonial and revolutionary periods.

The remaining pages of Parsons's pamphlet included information on "Medical Education in Rhode Island", the names of the recipients of the "Fiske Fund Prize Essays" along with the respective topics from 1835 to 1858, "Registration Reports", and a listing of Society officers.⁹ Although marked Volume I, the original 64 page publication prepared by Usher Parsons was actually No. I of Volume I of the *Transactions of the Rhode Island Medical Society*. Numbers two through nine of Volume I were issued as *Communications of the Rhode Island Medical Society*. These eight issues covered the years 1860 to 1877.

The *Communications* were issued under the direction of a Committee of Publication. Each issue contained on its cover the names of the three or four committee members. The total number of pages published as *Communications* was 474. An additional 132 pages unevenly distributed throughout each issue as a second section covered the quarterly, semi-annual, and annual meetings of the Rhode Island Medical Society.

Addresses read before the Society, case reports, as well as proceedings of meetings, treasurer's reports, listings of officers, and similar matters were contained in each publication. The second issue of Volume I contained the following resolution proposed by Usher Parsons:¹⁰

"that a committee of three be appointed to look for and engage a room in the city of Providence, for the accommodation of the library, cabinet and manuscripts, and for holding the meetings of this Society, at an expense not exceeding seventy-five dollars a year".

The treasurer's report published in the same issue listed an expenditure of \$54.40 for printing the *Transactions*.¹¹ This expense refers specifically to the 300 copies of Parsons's pamphlet.

Volume I, No. 4 contained a note that acknowledgements were received from the Redwood Library, the American Antiquarian Society, and the New York State Library for receipt of the Society's publications.¹² The "Report of the Committee of the Rhode Island Medical Society on the Plan of the Rhode Island Hospital" appeared in issue No. 5, Volume I.¹³ An inventory of Society publications which appeared in this same issue stated that 92 of the original 300 pamphlets prepared by Parsons and published as Volume I, (No. 1) of the *Transactions* were still available.¹⁴ It is worth noting that the fourth and fifth issues of Volume I were the only ones that actually contained No. 4 and No. 5 imprinted on the upper left hand corner of the cover.

An interesting account of alcohol was presented by L. F. C. Garvin in the *Communications* covering the years 1865 to 1872. One concluding paragraph was:¹⁵

"In consideration of the scientific facts known to the profession, and the daily effects known to all men, we believe it both a right and a duty to stop the sale of stimulating beverages by irresponsible persons, and to confine them to their proper place in the drug store."

In that same issue Edward T. Caswell presented a lengthy historical account of Jenner and his work with vaccination.¹⁶ A number of obituaries usually appeared in each issue of the *Communications*. For the issue under consideration there was one for Usher Parsons. It was noted that he was surgeon of O.H. Perry's flagship, the Lawrence, during the battle on Lake Erie.¹⁷

At the Society's semi-annual meeting in Providence (Continued on next page)

dence on December 16, 1868, it was voted to present all books, instruments, apparatus, and preparations to Rhode Island Hospital.¹⁸ A Centennial Essay titled "The Premature Death of Great Men" was presented by Lucius F. C. Garvin at the quarterly meeting on March 15, 1876.¹⁹ Garvin was followed by Doctor Robert F. Noyes who read a paper titled "Omne Vivum ex Parentibus".²⁰ The minutes of this meeting indicated that this "paper was a well prepared exposition of the theory of 'Spontaneous Evolution', or 'Equivocal Generation'".²¹ The minutes further reported that 400 copies of the *Communications* would be published.²²

The ninth, and final, issue of Volume I contained a complete index of major addresses and cases, obituaries, and proceedings which had been published as separately paged sections in the individual issues.²³ A report presented at the 65th Annual Meeting held on June 14, 1876 showed that there were 84 registered pharmacists and 30 registered assistant pharmacists in the state.²⁴ The minutes of the March 21, 1877 meeting reported that "suitable accommodations for books, journals and publications, may be obtained at the Franklin Lyceum rooms for the sum of \$35.00 a year."²⁵ The Committee on Publication further recommended "that efforts be forthwith made by the Society to form the nucleus of a library, and a committee be appointed to take the matter into consideration."²⁵

The report of the recording secretary for the year ending June 13, 1877 stated that "39 copies of the 'Communications' have been sent to the various State societies and others" and that a total of 33 volumes had been received in exchange.²⁶ The treasurer's report of the same date showed that only 29 copies of "Sketches of Rhode Island Physicians" were "on hand,"²⁷ considerably fewer than the 92 available in 1864.

An appendix to the final issue of Volume I of the *Communications* contained the text of "The Act of Incorporation of the Rhode Island Medical Society, together with the By-Laws, as Amended June 13th, 1877, and List of Members."²⁸ This was also the first issue to contain advertising, consisting of five pages which described patent medicines. In addition, there were full page announcements (on both sides of the back cover) of the academic year courses at Bellevue Hospital Medical Center and Jefferson Medical College. The expenses for the regular session at Bellevue were:

Fees for tickets to all the lectures during the preliminary and regular term, including clinical lectures	\$140.00
Matriculation fee	5.00
Demonstrator's ticket (including material for dissection)	10.00
Graduation fee	30.00

The format observed in the nine issues comprising the first volume of the *Transactions*, i.e., *Communications of the Rhode Island Medical Society* was to be followed fairly closely until this publication ceased in 1912. Collectively, eight volumes were published between the years 1859 and 1912. The following summarizes the volumes and the inclusive years:

Volume and Issues	Years Covered
I (9 issues)	1859-1877
II (6 issues)	1877-1882
III (6 issues)	1883-1888
IV (5 issues)	1889-1893
V (5 issues)	1894-1898
VI (5 issues)	1899-1903
VII (6 issues)	1904-1909
VIII (3 issues)	1910-1912

Beginning with Volume II the original title dating back to 1859 of *Transactions of the Rhode Island Medical Society* was adopted and employed until 1912. Therefore, only issues two through eight in Volume I were published as *Communications of the Rhode Island Medical Society*.

VOLUME II OF THE TRANSACTIONS

Volume II consisted of six parts covering the years 1877 to 1882. The total number of pages published was 559. Also, with this and later volumes there was one continuous pagination. The proceedings of meetings and original contributions were no longer paged separately. Generally speaking, the proceedings appeared in the initial pages of an issue while the addresses, case reports, and similar material followed.

Advertisements for pharmaceutical preparations appeared more frequently as well as descriptions of apparatus and materials used by physicians. Descriptive information and advertisements from McKesson & Robbins, Wyeth, and Parke-Davis appeared regularly. Additional medical departments placed notices of instructional programs. Yale, Dartmouth, Vermont, and Bowdoin were new listings, while the one for Bellevue had appeared earlier. The comparative costs were: Yale, \$235; Bellevue, \$185; Dartmouth, \$147; Vermont, \$100. Fees for Bowdoin were not listed.

Similarly, advertisements for medical books as well as book dealers made their appearance in Volume II of the *Transactions*. The advertisement

Stephen Smith
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that of Gross:²⁹

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for Stephen Smith's A MANUAL OF THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF OPERATIVE SURGERY (Houghton, Mifflin) included reviews from distinguished physicians. A typical endorsement is that of Gross:²⁹

"Are you aware that you have produced a great book? If not, let me assure you of the fact. I believe I am perfectly familiar with the literature of surgery, and if there is any work of the kind equal to yours in any language, I am not acquainted with it. This is saying a great deal, but only what is strictly true. The work, considered as a whole, does you infinite credit, and cannot but be regarded as a most valuable addition to the surgical literature of our country.

—PROF. S. D. GROSS, Professor of Surgery in Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, Pa."

A notice to the Fellows of the Rhode Island Medical Society soliciting gifts of books and journals was placed in the 1880 issue of the *Transactions* by the Library Committee and George D. Hersey, Librarian.³⁰ The following issue contained a full page announcement of 39 recent acquisitions to the Library of the Rhode Island Medical Society together with the note that "about 1,800 volumes are now accessible".³¹

At the quarterly meeting of September 19, 1877 Doctor T. Newell, Chairman of the Special Committee on Hall and Library, presented several recommendations. One was the establishment of a "library standing committee" and an annual assessment of \$1.00 per member to be added to the library treasury fund.³²

The annual report of the secretary, dated June 12, 1878, listed the active membership of the Society as 159 and the honorary membership 24.³³ At the quarterly meeting on December 19, 1878 "Doctor Caswell exhibited a specimen number of the *Index Medicus*, a monthly journal published by Surgeon General Billings".³⁴

Extensive reports from the Library Committee and Publication Committee appeared in each issue of the *Transactions*. Among the items considered in detail were gifts, exchanges, library holdings, publication costs, and advertisement income. The annual report of Doctor W. O. Brown, Chairman of the Committee on Publication, contained a note that the secretary of the Society "has received a copy of the transactions of the medical societies of every state in the Union, excepting Nevada, which has no medical society, we are informed".³⁵

Three articles from the second volume of the

Transactions are of interest: "Trepining in Epilepsy", by Charles O'Leary³⁶; "A Case of Removal of Both Ovaries by Abdominal Section", by Anita E. Tyng³⁷; and "Malaria in Providence", by C. V. Chapin.³⁸ The case report by Doctor Tyng was the first accompanied by journal citations to appear in the *Transactions*. The obituary notice and list of writings published by Isaac Ray, associated with Butler Hospital, appeared in the 1881 *Transactions*.³⁹

EXPERIMENT WITH ADVERTISING

Volume III of the *Transactions of the Rhode Island Medical Society* covered the years 1883 to 1888 and consisted of six parts. The number of pages published was 592. The already mentioned features and format were essentially the same. Advertising was expanded to include insurance agents, lists of "trained nurses" and their educational backgrounds,⁴⁰ and subscription prices to medical periodicals. The Franklin Bookstore of Providence offered these titles among others:⁴¹

Boston Medical and Surgical Journal	\$4.50 year
Medical Times, Philadelphia	\$3.50 year
Physician and Pharmacist	\$1.75 year
Cancer Journal	\$1.00 year

Three articles generally related to public health, one of an historic nature, appeared in the third volume of the *Transactions*. Edwin M. Snow wrote the "Early History of Vaccination in Providence". His paper was followed by a facsimile copy of "Cow-Pock Inoculation" which was described as a "Hand-bill distributed by a committee of the town of Providence, 1810".⁴² The other articles of interest in public health were G. Taber Swarts' "Statistics of an Investigation of the Premises and Habitation of Three Hundred Cases of Typhoid Fever Occurring in Providence, During the Winter of 1882-1883"⁴³ and "The Anticipatory Treatment of Local Epidemics" by H. R. Storer.⁴⁴

The "First, Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Annual Reports of the Librarian; 1879-1884" were presented by George D. Hersey in the 1884 *Transactions*.⁴⁵ The annual growth of the Library was:

1879-1880	600 vols.
1880-1881	993 vols.
1881-1882	501 vols.
1882-1883	409 vols.
1883-1884	1083 vols.
Total	3586 vols.

Exchange items, gifts, the card catalog, and other topics were considered in detail. The quarterly meeting of September 13, 1888 contained a note

(Continued on next page)

that the Library had 7,300 bound volumes and "a very large number of pamphlets". Furthermore, the Library "receives regularly one hundred periodicals, and has now complete files of nearly all the medical journals that have been published in English for the past one hundred years".⁴⁶

A more complete report of the Library Committee from the previous issue of the *Transactions* was as follows:⁴⁷

"The Committee on the Library present their eighth annual report: During the year ending May 31, 1887, the Library received 1014 accessions, from the following sources:

From gifts	688 vols.
From exchanges	92 vols.
From transfer by binding	185 vols.
From purchases	42 vols.
Source unknown	7 vols.
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Total gain	1014
Reported last year	5630
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Total, May 31, 1887	6644

An interesting sketch by James H. Eldridge titled "Reminiscences of Fifty Years in the Rhode Island Medical Society" appeared in the 1888 *Transactions*.⁴⁸ An appendix to this paper contained a complete list of the Fiske Fund Prize Essays from 1835 to 1888. The most recent recipient was Charles V. Chapin who in 1888 was awarded \$200.00 for his presentation on the topic: "What changes has the acceptance of the germ theory made in measures for the prevention and treatment of Consumption?"⁴⁹ It is worth noting that Chapin also won on four previous occasions.⁵⁰

- 1880. XXI. The sympathetic nerve; its relation to disease.
Award of two hundred dollars . . .
- 1884. XXXII. The origin and progress of malarial fever now prevalent in New England.
Award of three hundred dollars . . .
- 1885. XXXIII. The present state of the germ theory of disease.
Award of two hundred dollars . . .
- 1886. XXXV. The methods and practical results of treatment of the malarial diseases now prevalent in New England.
Award of two hundred dollars . . .

Volume IV of the *Transactions* issued between 1889 and 1893 was in five parts consisting of 637 pages. The continued growth of the Rhode Island Medical Society Library through these years was

again evidenced by the number of recently added volumes. However, the financial status of the Library appeared to be precarious. At the quarterly meeting held on March 14, 1889 the following was recorded:⁵¹

"Doctor H. G. Miller spoke of the financial status of the Society, and said the circulars recently sent to each Fellow of the Society, asking for subscriptions for the maintenance of the Library, had resulted thus far in the sum of \$60. Also that the Library Committee were desirous of paying several bills, but were unable to do so. The great intrinsic value of the Library was spoken of and the importance of providing means for its support and future development.

Upon motion of Doctor Miller it was voted that the Library Committee be authorized to draw upon the Treasurer of the Society to the amount of \$300".

The annual address delivered by George L. Collins at the June 9, 1889 meeting was titled "State Control of Medical Practice".⁵² Articles on public health, especially typhoid fever, continued to appear, such as Gardner T. Swarts's "The Bacillus of Typhoid Fever"⁵³ and "Some Points in the Etiology of Typhoid Fever" by Charles V. Chapin.⁵⁴ The total membership of the Rhode Island Medical Society as of December 31, 1889 was 208. The 1889 *Transactions* was the last issue to contain advertisements.

In the past, the address delivered at the annual meeting had usually been on a scientific topic or original investigation. Doctor John W. Mitchell departed from this format at the June 12, 1890 meeting, speaking on "The Rhode Island Medical Society".⁵⁵ In this address special consideration was given to Doctor Amos Throop, the first President of the Society. Still another innovation appeared in the 1890 *Transactions*. W. L. Munro's "An Unique Exanthem Following an Acute Attack of Epidemic Influenza" was accompanied by a full page "chromo-lithographic illustration" reproduced from the July 1891 issue of *The Journal of Cutaneous and Genito-Urinary Diseases*.⁵⁶ It should be mentioned that the 1890 *Transactions* were published in 1891; hence, the inclusion of the 1891 illustration.

At the quarterly meeting held on September 1, 1892 the secretary read a copy of two resolutions received from the Medical Society of Pennsylvania which had been adopted by that group in May 1892. The full text was:⁵⁷

Resolved, That the Medical Society of the

State of Pennsylvania est disapprobation certificates or testimonials alleged to be of attention of the fact that such of the said society of the profession letter and the s the American M Society.

Resolved, That its disapprobation advertisements columns of medical insult to the in a degradation of the level of the specially to be *Journal of the* admitting such

No action was taken (Medical Society) regarding

The report of for the year ending cessions and the It was also stated ANATOMY in five the library of D minutes of the D ing contained a re *Rhode Island Me*

"publish the being prompted and true reports shall be satisfied most earnestly granted us to take down the ings".

APPEARANCE

This new journal *Science Monthly* published in Rhode and continued pu that time the *Medical Weekly* lectively, 10 vols and 2 (1893-189 *Science Monthly* 1898) as the *At* the Providence

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State of Pennsylvania hereby expresses its highest disapprobation of the practice of giving certificates or testimonials to secret preparations alleged to be of medicinal virtue, and calls the attention of the affiliated county societies to the fact that such action on the part of members of the said societies is in derogation of the dignity of the profession, and in violation of the letter and the spirit of the Code of Ethics of the American Medical Association and of this Society.

Resolved, That this Society likewise expresses its disapprobation of the practice of inserting advertisements of secret preparations in the columns of medical journals, such action being an insult to the intelligence of the profession, and a degradation of journals indulging therein to the level of the patent medicine almanac. Especially to be condemned is the action of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* in admitting such advertisements".

No action was taken (by the Rhode Island Medical Society) regarding this matter.

The report of the Committee on the Library for the year ending May 31, 1891 listed 396 accessions and the total number of volumes as 9,420. It was also stated that "a copy of Cuvier's HUMAN ANATOMY in five folio volumes" was received from the library of Doctor Charles W. Parsons.⁵⁸ The minutes of the December 7, 1893 quarterly meeting contained a request from the publishers of the *Rhode Island Medical Science Monthly* to:⁵⁹

"publish the proceedings of the Society and, being prompted by a desire to give correct, full and true reports of the meetings, reports that shall be satisfactory to all parties concerned, we most earnestly request that the privilege be granted us to have our stenographer present to take down the proceedings of the various meetings".

APPEARANCE OF OTHER PUBLICATIONS

This new journal, the *Rhode Island Medical Science Monthly*, was the first medical journal published in Rhode Island. It was founded in 1893 and continued publication until October 1894. At that time the title was changed to the *Atlantic Medical Weekly* and continued until 1898. Collectively, 10 volumes were published; Volumes 1 and 2 (1893-1894) as the *Rhode Island Medical Science Monthly* and Volumes 3 through 10 (1894-1898) as the *Atlantic Medical Weekly*.⁶⁰ In 1900 the Providence Medical Association began the

quarterly publication of the *Providence Medical Journal*. Between 1900 and 1916, 17 volumes were issued under this title. These publications, as well as the present *Rhode Island Medical Journal*, will be considered more completely in later parts of this series.

The fifth volume of the *Transactions* issued from 1894 to 1898 consisted of 660 pages published in five parts. Doctor W. J. McCaw reported at the March 5, 1896 meeting that "the specimens belonging to the Society had been transferred for safe keeping to the Museum of Brown University . . . and are properly arranged and labeled, and are accessible to the Fellows of the society at any time".⁶¹ It had been recorded earlier that:⁶²

"the use and the usefulness of the library are gradually increasing. During the past year its privileges have been granted to the students and professors of Brown University. It is a pleasant to record that every book taken by them has been promptly returned when due, which has not always been the case with those taken by members of the Society".

Among other items of interest related to Brown University was a report of a demonstration by Professor H. C. Bumpus of "the X rays, and after adjournment an opportunity was . . . to witness the operation of the Holtz machine".⁶³ It was later reported that Alpheus Spring Packard, M.D., Ph.D. and Hermon Carey Bumpus, Ph.D., both of Brown, were elected Honorary Members of the Society.⁶⁴

The following information was abstracted from the minutes of the quarterly meeting of December 3, 1896:⁶⁵

"A communication was received from the Pasteur Monument Association of the United States requesting the cooperation of the Society in collecting a fund for the purpose of erecting a monument to the late M. Pasteur in Paris.

The Secretary was authorized to receive and forward subscriptions."

An article on "Compulsory Vaccination" by L. F. C. Garvin also appeared in the *Transactions* of 1896.⁶⁶ It is of particular interest that an authorization was approved for 5,000 copies of this paper to be printed for free distribution.⁶⁷

H. G. Miller's Annual Report of the Committee on the Library for 1896 included the following:⁶⁸

"Continued experience with the wants of busy practitioners, essay writers, and students engaged in original research, shows that periodicals

(Continued on next page)

(sic), including Society Transactions, and the annual Hospital and Health Reports, form the most useful section of the library. It is the living, up-to-date part of medical literature; always in demand. The growth of our library has fortunately been almost wholly in this direction, making our collection of special convenience and value for reference purposes."

Among the obituaries in the same issue was that of Annie News. It is noteworthy that it began with this phrase:⁶⁹

"To the Rhode Island Medical Society belongs the honor of being the first among the State medical societies to elect a woman to its fellowship . . ."

It appears that the members found it pleasing to reminisce about the early days of the Society and its members as yet another historical paper (see reference 55) titled "The Rhode Island Medical Society of Fifty Years Ago", written by J. W. C. Ely, was published at this time. Several humorous anecdotes of Doctor Lewis L. Miller and others were presented.⁷⁰

A FAMOUS ADDRESS BY OSLER

Volume VI of the *Transactions*, dated 1899 to 1903, consisted of five parts comprising 696 pages. The Annual Address, delivered at the December 7, 1899 meeting was given by William Osler. The title was "A Rhode Island Philosopher (Elisha Bartlett)".⁷¹ The following is a footnote from that address:⁷²

"Parsons closes his HISTORICAL TRACT ON THE BROWN UNIVERSITY MEDICAL SCHOOL with the sentence, 'Whether this city, the second in New England, shall become the seat of such a school (that is, a revived department of medicine) must depend very much on the zeal, persistence and ability of its physicians.' May I be permitted to remark, Mr. President, that the existing conditions are singularly favorable for a small first-class school. Here are college laboratories of physics, chemistry and biology, and modern hospitals, with 300 beds. What is lacking? Neither zeal, persistence nor ability on the part of the physicians, but a generous donation to the University of a million of dollars with which to equip and endow laboratories of anatomy, physiology, pathology and hygiene. These alone are lacking; the preliminary scientific school is here; the clinical school is at your doors; the money should be the least difficult thing to get in this plutocratic town. The day has come for small medical

schools in university towns with good clinical facilities."

The next Annual Address following that of Osler delivered on September 6, 1900 by George D. Hersey, was titled "The Medical Library as a Factor in Medical Progress."⁷³ The development of the Rhode Island Medical Society Library was traced, and a concluding paragraph emphasized the symbiotic relationship between the library and the laboratory.

Interaction between the Society and Brown University appeared to continue beyond the previous informal arrangements. Volume VI of the *Transactions* contained three papers by Brown professors. They were: "Rhode Island's Poisonous Plants" by William Whitman Bailey,⁷⁴ "The Effects of Chemical and Physical Influences on the Development of the Embryo" by A. D. Mead,⁷⁵ and "The Relation of Mental Content to Nervous Activity" by E. B. Delabarre.⁷⁶

The obituary notices printed in the 1903 *Transactions* included that of Oliver Chase Wiggin. "The Providence Lying-In Hospital was organized largely by his initiative and efforts, and he served as its first president from 1884 until . . . 1891."⁷⁷

There were six parts to Volume VII of the *Transactions*, issued from 1904 to 1909. These issues had a total pagination of 889. The Library Report for 1904 stated that:⁷⁸

"One hundred and seventy-five periodicals are received regularly. Of these, one hundred and sixty are American and fifteen are foreign. There are still others which appear irregularly." It was also reported that:⁷⁹

"Among the additions to the library during the year, the most notable is that given by Doctor Charles V. Chapin, of books connected with sanitary science, in which he is so well known an authority. A vast number of periodicals and bound volumes containing the transactions of various boards of health and associations interested in sanitary science, have been contributed by him, and these, with our previous acquisitions in that line, make our library among the foremost in the country, to those interested in investigations in that direction."

Papers on mental illness began to appear in the *Transactions* more frequently, such as William F. Gleason's "Education of the Feeble Minded"⁸⁰ and "The Lay Treatment of the Insane in Rhode Island" by Henry A. Jones.⁸¹ A list of officers of

(Concluded on page 532)

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MEDICAL PERIODICALS OF RHODE ISLAND

(Concluded from page 506)

the district societies was first published in the 1905 *Transactions*. The six district societies were: Kent, Newport, Pawtucket, Providence, Washington, and Woonsocket.⁸²

The 1905 Report of the Committee on the Library reported that the total number of bound volumes was approaching 20,000.⁸³ The report also contained a statement that Miss Grace Dickerman had been appointed as Assistant Librarian to the Society. Actually, her work as an attendant had started in 1903 and was to continue until 1965.⁸⁴

The final volume of the *Transactions* was the eighth, published in three parts from 1910 to 1912 and consisting of 311 pages. At the quarterly meeting held on March 3, 1910 Doctor George D. Hersey presented a paper on "Some of the Earlier Anatomists with Exhibition of Their Work."⁸⁵ Books by Vesalius and Eustachius, among others, were on display.⁸⁶ In the same issue appeared the report by Robert F. Noyes on "The Proposed Building for the Rhode Island Medical Society."⁸⁷ The report covers the actions taken by the Society on this matter between the years 1908 and 1910.

The 1911 issue of the *Transactions* contained "The Laying of the Corner-Stone of the Library Building, June 1, 1911" and included Doctor Frank L. Day's address.⁸⁸ The Annual Address, delivered on the same day by G. Alder Blumer, was titled "A Plea for the Medical Library."⁸⁹

Addresses related to libraries continued to appear. At the Centennial Meeting of June 13, 1912 Abraham Jacobi presented "The Educational Value of Medical Societies and Libraries."⁹⁰ Of particular interest in the final volume of the *Transactions* was the paper by Frank T. Fulton and Carl D. Sawyer titled "The Treatment of Syphilis with Ehrlich's Salvarsan, with Observations on its Effect upon the Serum Test and upon the Spirochetes."⁹¹

CONCLUSION

This paper has been a descriptive study of the first official journal of the Rhode Island Medical Society. Between the years 1859 and 1912 eight volumes of the *Transactions of the Rhode Island Medical Society* were issued. Essentially, it was the foundation and growth of the Society that promoted the development of this journal.

Later parts in this series will examine in similar detail the other medical journals of Rhode Island

including the current one. For now, though, the following quotation appears particularly appropriate to the paper in hand:

"There is a dead medical literature, and there is a live one. The dead is not all ancient, the live is not all modern. There is none, modern or ancient, which, if it has no living value for the student, will not teach him something by its autopsy."

REFERENCES

A list of the references for the three installments may be obtained from the Rhode Island Medical Society Library



SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND CANCER GROUP

(Concluded from page 513)

SUMMARY

The Southern New England Cancer Group started in April 1972, one year prior to this report, with a small nucleus of participating hospitals and physicians for the purpose of improving the care of the cancer patient in southern New England. It has grown to include over 60 member physicians and 17 participating hospitals. Continuation of the Southern New England Cancer Group is contingent upon federal funding programs, and inasmuch as these have not yet been delineated by the Government, the future of the Southern New England Cancer Group is uncertain. It is our opinion that the program has demonstrated the usefulness of a regional, inter-hospital approach to the management of the cancer patient. Although the program is no longer federally funded, it will, if feasible, be continued as a permanent medical service in Rhode Island.

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