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LIBRARY

TULSA COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

November, 1956

THE BULLETIN

of the Tulsa County Medical Society

IN THIS ISSUE

Tulsa County Medical Society To Hear
Pittsburgh Surgeon On November 12, 1956



A New Evil—The Malpractice Suit



Dr. Arthur C. Curtis Of Ann Arbor Set
For General Practice Academy Program



Library Committee Functions Explained

Vol. 22

No. 11



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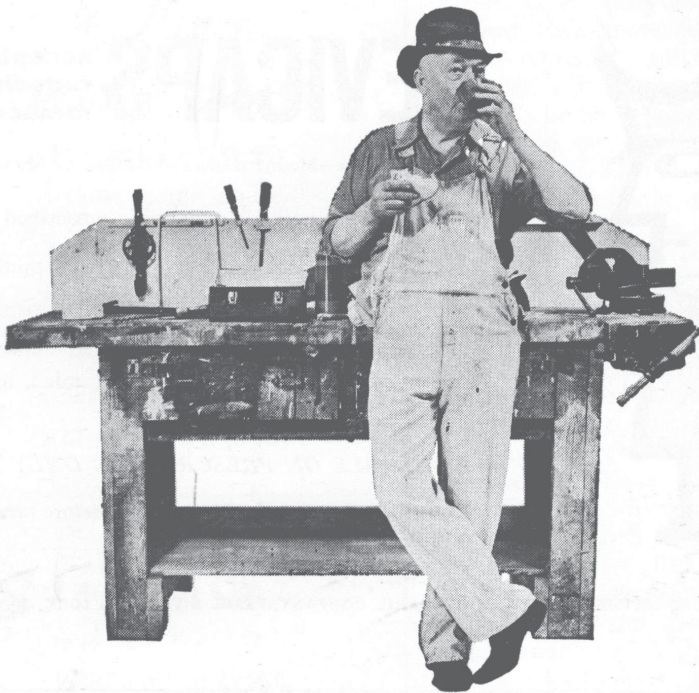
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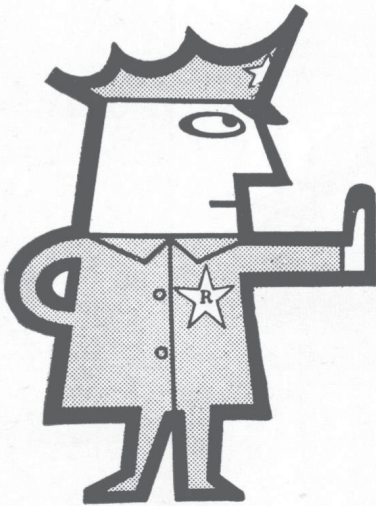
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With The Editor . . .

The U. S. News and World Report of August 10th predicted Tulsa will be an urban center of 460,000 population in 1975 . . . It foresaw a gain of almost 185,000 in the next twenty years, largely due to an expanded manufacturing program . . . Such an increase would necessitate a minimum of 185 new doctors just to care for the additional population alone . . . To this figure must be added enough to replace the doctors who die or move away each year . . . And with Tulsa rapidly developing into a regional medical center even more doctors will be required to serve patients referred from other areas for specialized surgery and treatment . . . It is a bright prospect for Tulsa and Tulsa Medicine . . . "Medic" will return to the TV air-planes next March after a hiatus of several months . . . Richard Boone, whose popularity is zooming in theatrical productions, may not continue as Dr. Konrad Steiner . . . A proposed revamping of the rabies control ordinance of Tulsa prepared by the Tulsa City-County Board of Health ran into unexpected opposition last month from the Tulsa City Commission . . . Despite the endorsement of the Tulsa Veterinary Association and the Tulsa County Medical Society, the ordinance was heavily criticized by Commission members . . . The ordinance would take the responsibility for rabies control away from the Police Department and place it in the hands of the Tulsa City-County Health Department . . . As this issue of The Bulletin went to press, chances for approval of the ordinance were poor . . . Tulsa has not had a rabies scare for several years, and no cases have been reported in two years, but veterinarians warn it is only a question of time . . . Dr. Thomas M. Rivers of New York City, former Vice-President of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, is the new Medical Director of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis . . . He succeeds Dr. Hart E. Van Riper, who resigned after eleven years with the Foundation to join Geigy Pharmaceuticals.

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THE BULLETIN

OF THE

TULSA COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

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Vol. 22

TULSA, OKLAHOMA, NOVEMBER, 1956

No. 11

PITTSBURGH SURGEON TO SPEAK HERE

Dr. J. Huber Wagner, Former Chief Surgeon of United States Steel Corporation, To Lecture On November 12, 1956.

Dr. J. Huber Wagner, Chairman of the Medical Advisory Board of the United States Steel Corporation, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, will be guest speaker for the Tulsa County Medical Society on Monday, November 12, 1956. His subject will be "Bone Grafts."

The meeting will be in the Auditorium of the Blue Cross-Blue Shield Building, 1215 South Boulder, Tulsa. Telephone service at the Auditorium is available by calling LUther 5-9149. Members are advised to note this number carefully. The directory listing for the Blue Cross-Blue Shield Building will not operate.

Formerly Chief Surgeon and Medical Director of United States Steel Corporation until his retirement early this year, Dr. Wagner is one of America's best known surgeons. A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Class of 1914, he interned at St. Francis Hospital of Pittsburgh. Subsequently Dr. Wagner was a Mellon Fellow in Bacteriology at the University of

Pittsburgh and later completed a residency in surgery at St. Francis Hospital. In 1917 he enlisted in the United States Army Medical Corps and served through World War I as a Captain in overseas hospitals in France.



DR. J. HUBER WAGNER

Following his return to the United States in 1919, Dr. Wagner was appointed Assistant Chief Surgeon of the Carnegie Illinois Steel Corporation. He joined the staff of the medical department of United Steel Corporation and was appointed Chief Surgeon and Medical Director in 1946. He is a member of the staff of several Pittsburgh hospitals. Dr. Wagner is a fellow and a former President of the American College of Surgeons, member of the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma, former President of the Pittsburgh Academy of Medicine, and member of the Industrial Medical Association. His main interest has been in the field of surgery of trauma.

(Continued On Page 40)

Selection of New Books A Major Task

LIBRARY COMMITTEE HAS MANY DUTIES

By William C. Alston, Jr., M.D.

Chairman, Medical Library Committee

(Editor's Note: This is the second in a series of articles explaining the work of the various committees of the Tulsa County Medical Society. In the December issue of The Bulletin the functions of the Grievance Committee will be described).

The Library of the Tulsa County Medical Society will observe its 25th anniversary in 1957. From a disordered collection of old medical textbooks and journals in 1932 it has grown to a modern 12,500-volume facility of national reputation. Three years ago it was featured in Medical Economics as an example of what an aggressive county medical society, working on a limited budget, can accomplish through the cooperation and interest of its members.

Today, after nearly a quarter of a century of growth and progress, the Medical Library maintains bound files of 140 periodicals in all fields of medicine, a large and expanding collection of textbooks, bibliographies on several hundred popular subjects, inter-library borrowing facilities, microfilm reading equipment, reference publications, a sizeable collection of volumes on medical history, a rare book section (with books dating back to the 16th century), scientific motion picture borrowing facilities, a section on medical economics, and material in the related fields of nursing, dentistry, medical technology, and hospital administration. A highly-trained full-time Medical Librarian and a part-time Assistant Librarian are on duty to assist doctors in meeting their needs.

The responsibility for the Library is entrusted to a five-man Medical Library Committee appointed by the President of the Tulsa County Medical Society with the approval of the Board of Trustees. Each member serves a term of three years. The membership is staggered with one or two new members appointed each

year, thus assuring a continuity in the library program. The present personnel of the Committee includes Dr. William C. Alston, Jr., Chairman, Dr. Paul O. Shackelford, Dr. Robert G. Tompkins, Dr. C. S. Lewis, Jr., and Dr. Thomas J. Hardman.

The committee serves in an advisory capacity to the Librarian, Miss Irma A. Beehler, and performs certain other functions. Each November the Committee reviews the expenditures of the Library for the current year and prepares a suggested budget for the following year. This is forwarded to the Board of Trustees for approval and incorporation into the Society budget, which in turn is presented to the membership for final approval at the annual business meeting in December.

Periodically the Committee meets to select new books to be purchased by the Library. A limited amount of money provided by the regular budget for this purpose is augmented by contributions of money from members and lay persons. Many of these gifts are received in memory of deceased doctors. Each book purchased with such contributions is marked with the name of the memorial and the name of the donor. All such gifts are acknowledged to the family of the deceased.

The Committee attempts to use its new book fund wisely, selecting volumes which will be of wide use. Because medical textbooks are quickly outmoded by the progress of medical science, the Committee selects those whose apparent life of usefulness is generally good. The Committee also endeavors to represent all of the major specialties in its selection but seldom purchases books which will be limited in value to a small group. Suggestions for book purchases are always welcome, and the Committee regularly solicits the advice of the various

specialty groups.

The Library Committee also reviews annually its list of journal subscriptions. Periodicals which prove to be of limited circulation or poor in content may be dropped. Since a number of new journals are placed on the market each year, the Committee reviews sample copies and determines which are to be purchased. With the cost of journal subscriptions steadily rising, the Committee has found it difficult to purchase as many periodicals as it might wish. Some assistance is given in this respect by continuing contributions from drug stores, medical organizations, individual physicians, and the Auxiliary to the Tulsa County Medical Society.

The Committee also designates which volumes are to be bound and permanently preserved. At present virtually all periodicals are bound, and the Library is now completing a long range program of binding its many loose volumes.

Questions of policy regarding the Library must also be determined by the Committee. Rules governing the use of the Library were revised this year, and it was considered advisable to limit borrowing to members only. Lay persons and employees of physicians may use the Library only upon written application to the Medical Library Committee. The general public is not permitted to use the Library; the Committee feels that, by and large, lay persons are not able to properly interpret the detailed scientific material available in most references. This also limits the efforts of lay persons to diagnose and treat their own ailments, efforts which may cause more harm than good. Periodically, the Committee reviews the applications for Library privileges. Approvals are usually limited to detail men, pre-med students, nurses, and technicians who can demonstrate a genuine need for the Library facilities.

The Committee also supervises purchases of Library equipment and sup-



Miss Irma A. Beehler, Librarian to the Tulsa County Medical Society, shows a piece of strip microfilm to Dr. Robert E. Funk (right). In the background is Dr. Marshall O. Hart. The machine at the left is the Medical Library's microfilm reader.

plies, and last year installed new air-conditioning equipment in the main reading room.

From time to time the Committee reviews problems brought to its attention by the librarian, establishes policy and revises or adds to the present rules and regulations governing the Library.

Several years ago the Medical Library Committee established the Medical Library Endowment Fund. It was hoped this Fund would grow sufficiently through contributions of doctors and others to eventually provide an income for the operation of the Library. As yet the sum is not large enough to provide more than a token income. The Committee hopes to persuade doctors to remember the Medical Library in their will and to secure contributions from other sources. The Fund is not used for current expenses.

Another vexing problem of the Committee is to encourage the use of the Library by a greater number of doctors. Many members — and surprisingly enough, this includes many newcomers to Tulsa Medicine—have never visited the Library. Some seem only vaguely aware that the Society has a Library, and a few do not know where it is located. The Committee has found, however, that once a doctor visits the Library and becomes acquainted with its facilities, he remains a regular patron. All doctors are urged to visit the Library at 1203 Medical Arts Building—it occupies the entire twelfth floor of the Medical Arts Building—and investigate its facilities and services.

Books and journals which are not available in the Medical Library can be borrowed from other medical libraries and from the huge Armed Forces Library in Washington. Some of this material is received on microfilm, for which the Library maintains a convenient reader. The only cost to the doctor is the postage or freight transportation. Books may also be delivered to a doctor's office by messenger; the doctor must pay the messenger, for which the average charge is 75 cents to \$1.00.

The Committee would be amiss if it did not recognize the valuable contribu-

tion of the Librarian to the success of the Medical Library. Through her efficient handling of the mechanics of the Library and her constant efforts to expand and better it, the Library has attained a national recognition in medical library circles. The Society is indebted to her for her loyalty and interest.

The activities of the Medical Library are to be found in a monthly report appearing in *The Bulletin* of the Tulsa County Medical Society. This includes a record of all new books and journals received, publications by members of the Society, gifts and contributions, and other pertinent Library information.

Most recently the Library Committee has been studying proposals that the Library be moved to a new location. With a marked relocation of physicians offices in the Southeastern part of Tulsa, many doctors have urged the Library be moved to an area adjacent to the major hospitals. This will pose new financial problems for the Society; the ultimate solution would appear to be the purchase or construction of a new headquarters building for the Society, which would house not only the Library but the Executive Offices as well. Your opinion and comments on this suggestion are welcomed. With the Library growing at the rate of 400 to 500 volumes annually, it is apparent the quarters in the Medical Arts Building will be inadequate within the next few years.

The Library Committee appreciates your suggestions and comments concerning the Medical Library and its services and facilities; these may be sent to or discussed with any member of the Committee.

The Committee believes the Library of the Tulsa County Medical Society to be a splendid achievement of a progressive medical profession.

DR. LEON H. STUART has returned to his office following surgery at St. John's Hospital last month.

Speakers for the Will Rogers High School Medical Club last month included DR. MANUEL BROWN, DR. PAUL O. SHACKELFORD, DR. JOHN F. GRAY, JR., and DR. JAMES W. KELLEY.

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MICHIGAN DERMATOLOGIST TO SPEAK HERE NOVEMBER 26

Dr. Arthur C. Curtis, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Dermatology at the University of Michigan School of Medicine, Ann Arbor, Michigan, will be guest speaker for the Tulsa Academy of General Practice on Monday, November 26, 1956, at Hotel Tulsa. His subject will be announced later.

The meeting will be a dinner at 6:30 P.M. Reservations may be made by calling LUther 2-5904. The scientific program will begin at 8:00 P.M. All medical doctors are invited and urged to attend the dinner and program.

A graduate of the University of Michigan School of Medicine, Class of 1925, Dr. Curtis interned at University Hospitals of Ann Arbor, Michigan. He served several residencies at the latter institution, primarily in Internal Medicine, and in 1928 was named to the faculty of the University of Michigan School of Medicine as an Assistant Dean. From 1931 to 1935 he served as Secretary of the School of Medicine. His specialized training in Dermatology was taken at the Mayo Clinic, the New York Skin and Cancer Unit, and the University of Buffalo Medical School. In 1942 he was named Professor of Dermatology at the University of Michigan School of Medi-

cine, and four years later he was appointed as Chairman of the Department.

Dr. Curtis is a former President of the American Academy of Dermatology and Syphilology, former President of the Society for Investigative Dermatology, and is President of the American Board of Dermatology. He is also a fellow of the American College of Physicians, fellow of the American Dermatology Association and diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine. He belongs to numerous other medical organizations and serves as advisor and consultant to the United States Public Health Service and the Surgeon-General of the United States Army. Dr. Curtis is widely known for his scientific writings and clinical research.

NEW CLINIC BUILDING SET FOR SOUTHEAST LOCATION

A new clinic building to accommodate ten doctors and dentists will be built at 4926 East 21st Street, Tulsa, immediately west of the new St. Francis Hospital, it was announced last month.

Mr. James Nuckolls, builder, said the Clinic would be south across 21st from the proposed Sears-Roebuck Department Store. Construction will begin in November with occupancy scheduled for March, 1957.

The building will be a one-story structure of pink brick and glass with an entrance of perforated masonry construction. It will be completely air-conditioned and tastefully designed to the latest medical architecture. External planter boxes will add beauty to the front of the Clinic. The building will be on a site fronting 200 feet on 21st Street. Off-street parking for 60 cars is contemplated. A pharmacy, to be operated by Al Musick, veteran Tulsa druggist, will be included in the Clinic.

Dr. Eugene W. Lewis, Tulsa dentist, is in charge of leasing and may be contacted at RIverside 7-7515. Each suite will be decorated as desired.

DR. JOHN F. GRAY, JR. attended the annual meeting of the Southern Psychiatric Association in Washington, D. C., October 1-2, 1956.

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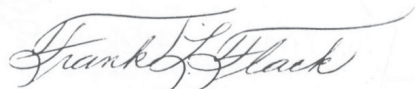
The rapid advances in the science of medicine are remarkable, but still the sheet anchor in the healing art remains confidence in the physician. Fifty years ago the doctor was the most trusted man in town. Some of this confidence and trust has been dimmed today as witness our treatment on H.R. 7225 by some of our political leaders. I am sorry to say I feel they struck us a low blow.

When you study the painting, "The Doctor," you are deeply impressed by the complete confidence and trust placed in the physician by the parents of the sick child, and you may know without reading Dr. William Drummond's story that the physician, Sir James Clark, remained all night until the recovery of the child. Sir Luke Fields, the artist, was deeply moved by the trust and faith placed in the doctor by this family. This was about all Sir James had with which to treat this child, whether it was diphtheria, typhoid or some other serious malady. No antisera and no antibiotics were available. Sir Luke painted this picture in 1891 and Sir James had gone to his reward years before.

It is a laudable devotion when Society members serve endless hours on committees to help their colleagues. Sometimes their only reward is a knowledge of work faithfully done. To all such conferees we owe our deepest respect and gratitude. The practice of medicine is complicated now when we must treat so many people who are afflicted only with a desire to be sick.

The organizations that have had amazing growths in the last few years are Blue Cross and Blue Shield plans. More than 35 million Americans, with a natural and sensible desire to protect themselves against uncertain illnesses and hospitalization expenses, have chosen these plans. The reason for this is evident, and is due in large measure to the sponsorship of the plans by organized medicine. Let us continue to serve Blue Cross and Blue Shield and to constantly recommend them to our patients.

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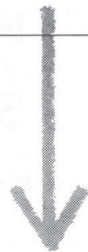


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*Talbot, N. B., Crawford, J. D., and Butler, A. M., "Homeostatic Limits to Safe Parenteral Therapy." *New Engl. J. Med.*, 248, 1100 (1953).



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A NEW EVIL—THE MALPRACTICE SUIT

Liability Actions Against Doctors Increase by 540 Per Cent Since 1900. Carelessness of Physicians In Conversations With Patients Seen As Major Cause of Suits.

What makes a malpractice suit?

To busy doctors the question is particularly pertinent, given significance by a startling increase in the number of malpractice suits threatened or filed in the last few years. In the decades between 1900 and 1950, the incidence of such cases to actually reach the courts has risen by 540 per cent. In 1953 alone there were 32 cases to reach the upper appellate courts of the United States. The number tried in lower courts, settled without litigation, or merely threatened runs annually into the hundreds.

This tremendous increase in the incidence of malpractice suits is not localized to any one state or section of the country. It is perhaps more noticeable in larger metropolitan centers where there is a greater volume of more difficult and specialized surgery performed. But no doctor, either the country G.P. or the big city specialist, is ever free from the threat of what may become a ruinous malpractice action.

Doctors have not been singled out for this special torture by the public. In the years since World War I there has been a dramatic increase in all forms of personal injury litigation. Mass production of the automobile plus great new changes in the techniques of manufacturing have wrought many changes, one of which is the increased frequency of accidental injuries or death and increased resort to law for redress.

The result has been a "suit-conscious" or "litigation-conscious" public which tends to think in terms of legal action for any and all real or imagined grievances. This public attitude has been helped along by an increased number of attorneys who build their practice around such suits and who frequently encourage them for the sake of a prospective fee.

For doctors the results have been more than significant. Faced with the necessity of thinking constantly in terms of protection against malpractice actions, it has often become necessary to sacrifice what

is best for the patient to reduce the opportunities for legal action. A strange paradox exists whereby the patient, medically untrained and emotionally upset, can dictate procedures to the surgeon and anesthesiologist which are definitely inferior to those preferred by the doctors. Typical of this has been the refusal of many patients to accept spinal anesthesia; as a result, they are more frequently endangered by less suitable anesthetics whose mortality rate is considerably higher.

Another significant aspect of the situation is the phenomenal size of many judgments which have been entered against physicians in malpractice suits in recent years. Mislead by a popular public philosophy that all doctors are rich, juries have awarded ruinous damages which have frequently destroyed the defendant's financial estate. Fortunately, most physicians, aware of this trend, have wisely increased the extent of their malpractice liability insurance.

To return to the question—What makes a malpractice suit?—a prominent attorney recently set forth his views on the matter. As contributing causes he suggests:

1. *A poor personal relationship between doctor and patient.* The more impersonal and aloof a physician is, the more critical the patient is bound to be.

2. *Careless and frequently untrue remarks of one doctor about another.* The roots of malpractice most often lie in such remarks as "What butcher performed this operation?" or "How in the world could he have missed it?" The doctor, like everyone else, must sell himself, and being human, the doctor frequently tries to build himself up by knocking others. The skillful salesman ignores his competitors and concentrates on establishing confidence in himself. The most damaging of such abuse lies in a growing tendency of many physicians to commit such views to paper—paper which most often finds itself into the plaintiff's Exhibit A.

3. *Careless handling of the financial side of medical practice.* A certain way to

wound deep personal pride is for the physician to send a bill that a patient can't pay and humble the patient to the point where he has to ask for charity. The bill doesn't have to be exorbitant to cause anger and resentment; it can be reasonable, but if it humiliates, resentment is immediately aroused. By careful inquiry and a little tact, the doctor can avoid such situations and charge in proportion to ability to pay. Otherwise, the step to a malpractice action is a quick one for the humiliated patient.

4. *Irresponsible statements of patients about doctors.* People have a habit of stating as a fact information which they would like to believe but which is not cold reality. Many physicians cannot realize that the tales their patients tell them about other doctors may not necessarily be true; the danger is that such an attitude may lead him into commenting and the physician in question to the courts.

5. *Failure of physicians to admit errors to patients.* Curiously enough, more malpractice suits often arise out of attempts of a physician to hide a serious error from his patient than by telling him what has actually happened. Malpractice attorneys are insistent that when a mistake has been made, the patient should be frankly advised. Failure to do so compounds the seriousness of the charge by interjecting fraud as a consideration.

Add these factors to the public's subconscious attitude plus the unscrupulous attorney, and you have the basic causes of malpractice.

The best defenses against malpractice are built upon a frank and open relationship between doctor and patient, adequate malpractice liability insurance coverage,

an organized program of malpractice prevention and defense (such as exists in the Tulsa County Medical Society), and constantly being on the alert to avoid saying or doing anything which may give a wrong impression to the patient. Needless to say, a more basic element is the necessity of practicing within one's capabilities with the health and welfare of the patient always paramount.

What to do when a malpractice suit is threatened?

The procedure is a simple but effective one: write a note to the agent who sold you the policy and state in detail the facts of the case. This will comply with the terms of your policy which requires you to make an immediate notification to the company of all threatened suits. *Do not wait until suit has actually been filed; put the company on notice at the first hint of trouble.*

The insurance carrier will then advise you of your future course of action, and most likely, a legal adjuster or attorney will call upon you to discuss the case.

Most members of the Tulsa County Medical Society are insured under the Society's group policy. The Insurance Committee of the Society meets routinely with the doctor who has been threatened and with the company attorney to study the case. Where the claim is justified, the Committee will recommend a settlement; if the facts do not disclose any medical dereliction on the part of the accused physician, the Committee will assist in fighting the action. This friendly assistance requires an open and above board approach to the problem on the part of the accused physician; in turn he will receive invaluable technical advice and assistance.

The doctor who is under threat of a suit should always have the benefit of sound legal advice; independent actions by the accused doctor are unwise, and the case should never be discussed with the plaintiff or his legal representative until the doctor's attorney is present. The attorney appointed by the company is a competent individual with special training or experience in handling suits of this type.

(Continued On Page 40)

"A New Evil—The Malpractice Suit," was originally published in the October, 1954 issue of The Bulletin. It was subsequently reprinted in fifteen other state and local medical journals, and the Montana Medical Association sent a copy to each of its members. The Insurance Committee feels that the article is sufficiently timely to warrant its reprinting from time to time.

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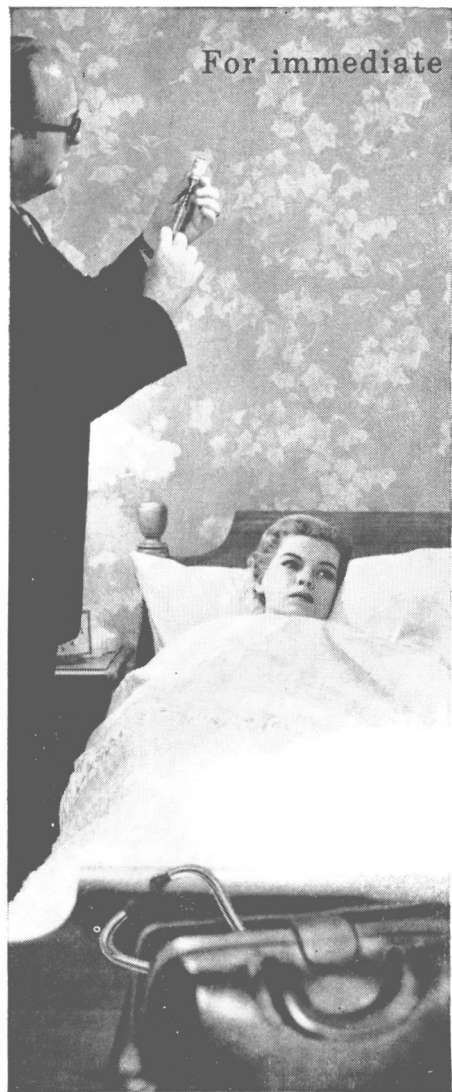
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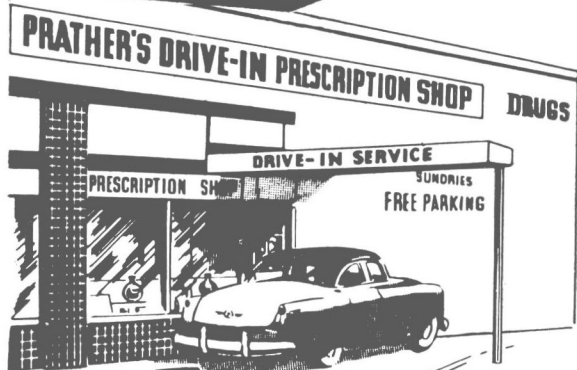
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NOVEMBER MEDICAL CALENDAR

THURSDAY, November 1st:

Annual Founders Day Clinic, Tulsa County Medical Society, Blue Cross- Blue Shield Building, 1215 South Boulder. Tumor Seminar, 9:00 A.M. Registration, 10:00 A.M. Program, 10:30 A.M.-5:00 P.M. For complete program see the October issue of The Bulletin, pages 7-9.

Medical Section Meeting, St. John's Hospital, 8:30 A.M.

Urology Section Meeting, St. John's Hospital, 9:00 A.M.

Surgical Section Meeting, St. John's Hospital, 9:00 A.M.

FRIDAY, November 2nd:

St. John's Isotope Committee Meeting, St. John's Hospital, 8:30 A.M.

St. John's Tumor Clinic, Clinical Conference, 9:30 A.M.

X-Ray Conference, Hillcrest Medical Center, 3:30 P.M.

Journal Club Meeting, Hillcrest Medical Center, 6:00 P.M.

SUNDAY, November 4th:

Medical Telecast, "Medical Horizons" series, Television Station KTVX, 3:30 P.M.

MONDAY, November 5th:

Staff Meeting, Hillcrest Medical Center, 8:00 P.M.

TUESDAY, November 6th:

St. John's Tumor Clinic, 8:00 A.M.

Intern and Resident Lecture, St. John's Hospital, 12:30 P.M. Subject: "Respiratory Emergencies in Children." Speaker, Dr. James W. White.

Postgraduate Study Lecture in Internal Medicine, Hillcrest Medical Center, 5:30 P.M.

Subject: "Gastrointestinal Hemorrhage." Speakers, Dr. Craig S. Jones and Dr. Terrell Covington, Jr.

WEDNESDAY, November 7th:

St. John's Isotope Clinic, St. John's Hospital, 8:30 A.M.

Board of Trustees Meeting, Tulsa County Medical Society, Utica Square National Bank, 1:00 P.M.

THURSDAY, November 8th:

Medical Section Meeting, St. John's Hospital, 8:30 A.M.

Medical Motion Picture, Hillcrest Medical Center, 12:30 P.M. Subject: "Cancer of the Female Breast."

Annual Alpha Omega Alpha Fall Lecture, University of Oklahoma School of Medicine, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 8:00 P.M. Subject: "The Effect of Radiation on Man and His Environment." Speaker, Dr. Shields Warren, Professor of Pathology, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts.

FRIDAY, November 9th:

St. John's Isotope Committee Meeting, St. John's Hospital, 8:30 A.M.

St. John's Tumor Clinic, Clinical Conference, 9:30 A.M.

X-Ray Conference, Hillcrest Medical Center, 3:30 P.M.

SUNDAY, November 11th:

Medical Telecast, "Medical Horizons" series, Television Station KTVX, 3:30 P.M.

MONDAY, November 12th:

Scientific Meeting, Tulsa County Medical Society, Blue Cross-Blue Shield Building, 1215 South Boulder, 8:00 P.M. Subject: "Bone Grafts." Speaker, Dr. J. Huber Wagner, Chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee, United States Steel Corporation, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

TUESDAY, November 13th:

St. John's Tumor Clinic, 8:00 A.M.

Pediatrics Section Meeting, St. John's Hospital, 9:00 A.M.

Pharmaceutical Demonstration, Hillcrest Medical Center, 12:30 P.M.

Interns and Residents Lecture, St. John's Hospital, 12:30 P.M. Subject: "Bleeding During the First Trimester of Pregnancy." Speaker, Dr. Franklin D. Sinclair.

Anesthesiology Conference, St. John's Hospital, 3:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, November 14th:

St. John's Isotope Clinic, St. John's Hospital, 8:30 A.M.

Postgraduate Study Lecture, Hillcrest Medical Center, 4:30 P.M. Subject: "Urological Procedures for the Hospital Patient." Speaker, Dr. Howard M. Cohenhour.

Clinical Pathological Conference, Hillcrest Medical Center, 7:30 P.M.

Surgery Short Course, University of Oklahoma School of Medicine, Oklahoma City, 3:30 P.M. Subject: "Nutrition in Childhood."

NOVEMBER MEDICAL CALENDAR

THURSDAY, November 15th

Medical Section Meeting, St. John's Hospital, 8:30 A.M.

FRIDAY, November 16th:

Copy deadline for the December issue of The Bulletin.

St. John's Isotope Committee Meeting, St. John's Hospital, 8:30 A.M.

St. John's Tumor Clinic, Clinical Conference, 9:30 A.M.

X-Ray Conference, Hillcrest Medical Center, 3:30 P.M.

Journal Club Meeting, Hillcrest Medical Center, 6:00 P.M.

SUNDAY, November 18th:

Medical Telecast, "Medical Horizons" series, Television Station KTVX, 3:30 P.M.

MONDAY, November 19th:

Clinical Pathological Conference, St. John's Hospital, 7:15 P.M.

Staff Meeting, St. John's Hospital, 8:00 P.M.

TUESDAY, November 20th:

St. John's Tumor Clinic, 8:00 A.M.

Interns and Residents Lecture, St. John's Hospital, 12:30 P.M. Subject: "Bleeding During the Third Trimester of Pregnancy." Speaker, Dr. Walter B. Sanger.

Postgraduate Study Lecture in Internal Medicine, Hillcrest Medical Center, 5:30 P.M. Subject: "Hemoptysis Dyspnea and Cough." Speaker, Dr. Marque O. Nelson.

Surgical Section Meeting, Hillcrest Medical Center, 7:30 P.M.

Board of Directors Meeting, Tulsa County Public Health Association, 808 South Peoria, 7:30 P.M.

X-Ray Conference, St. John's Hospital, 8:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, November 21st:

St. John's Isotope Clinic, St. John's Hospital, 8:30 A.M.

Medical Section Meeting, Hillcrest Medical Center, 6:15 P.M.

THURSDAY, November 22nd:

The Executive Offices and Library of the Tulsa County Medical Society will be closed all day in observance of Thanksgiving Day.

Obstetrics and Gynecology Section Meeting, St. John's Hospital, 8:30 A.M.

Medical Section Meeting, St. John's Hospital, 8:30 A.M.

Medical Motion Picture, Hillcrest Medical Center, 12:30 P.M. Subject: "Skin Grafting."

FRIDAY, November 23rd:

St. John's Isotope Committee Meeting, St. John's Hospital, 8:30 A.M.

St. John's Tumor Clinic, Clinical Conference, 9:30 A.M.

X-Ray Conference, Hillcrest Medical Center, 3:30 P.M.

SUNDAY, November 25th:

Medical Telecast, "Medical Horizons" series, Television Station KTVX, 3:30 P.M.

MONDAY, November 26th:

Scientific Meeting, Tulsa Academy of General Practice, Hotel Tulsa, 6:30 P.M. Speaker, Dr. Arthur C. Curtis, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Dermatology, University of Michigan School of Medicine, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Subject to be announced.

TUESDAY, November 27th:

Interim Meeting, American Medical Association, opens at Seattle, Washington, continuing through November 30th.

St. John's Tumor Clinic, 8:00 A.M.

Pediatrics Section Meeting, St. John's Hospital, 9:00 A.M.

Interns and Residents Lecture, St. John's Hospital, 12:30 P.M. Subject: "Acute Myocardial Infarction." Speaker, Dr. Homer A. Ruprecht.

Obstetrical Section Meeting, Hillcrest Medical Center, 8:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, November 28th:

St. John's Isotope Clinic, St. John's Hospital, 8:30 A.M.

THURSDAY, November 29th:

Medical Section Meeting, St. John's Hospital, 8:30 A.M.

FRIDAY, November 30th:

St. John's Isotope Committee Meeting, St. John's Hospital, 8:30 A.M.

St. John's Tumor Clinic, Clinical Conference, 9:30 A.M.

X-Ray Conference, Hillcrest Medical Center, 3:30 P.M.

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"Many older persons suffer from hypoproteinemia. This may manifest itself clinically as fatigue, secondary anemia, edema, or lowered resistance to infections." N. Jolliffe, F. F. Tisdall, P. R. Cannon; *Clinical Nutrition*, Paul B. Hoeber, Inc., 1950, p. 681.

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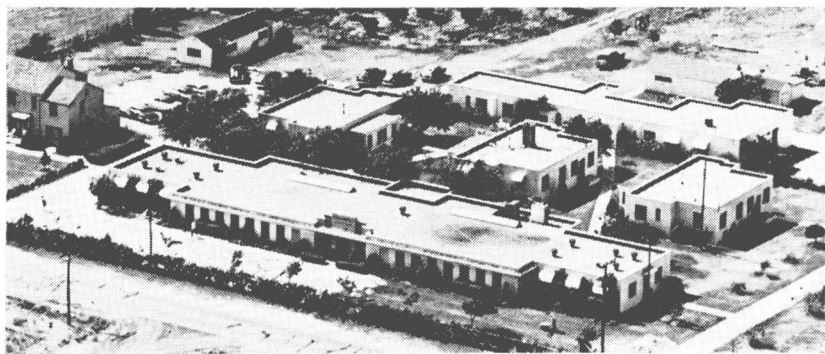
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GIFTS OF THE MONTH—:

American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. Directory, 1956.

Dr. H. D. Murdock. United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare; Public Health Service: First International Symposium on Venereal Disease and the Treponematoses, May 28-June 1, 1956, Washington, D.C.

Oklahoma State Medical Association. America's Health: A Report to the Nation by the National Health Assembly. Official Report. 395 pp., Harper & Brothers, Publishers, New York, N.Y., 1949.

Oklahoma State Medical Association. A Dictionary of Dietetics. By Rhoda Ellis, Ph.D., Instructor of Foods and Nutrition, Department of Home Economics, N.Y., 1956.

Traffic Accident Foundation for Medical Research, Montreal, Canada. Medical Aspects of Traffic Accidents. Proceeding of the Montreal Conference (1st). Harold Elliott, M.D., Editor. Held at McGill University, May 4-5, 1955, Montreal, Canada. 519 pp., illustrated, 1955.

RECENT ACQUISITION—:

American Medical Association. Quarterly Cumulative Index Medicus. Volume 55, January-June, 1954.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE TULSA COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY—:

Donald G. Clements, and other. Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia: Unusual Bone Changes in an Adult. *Radiology*, 6:399-403 (September) 1956.

Dr. Paul E. Craig. Clinical Observations on the Use of Combined Calcium Antihistamine Therapy in the Control of Allergic Skin Disorders. *Medical Digest (Bombay, India)*, 24:541-548 (July) 1956.

Dr. Frank L. Flack. Giant Cell Tumor of Tendon Sheath. *Journal of the Oklahoma State Medical Association*, 49:339-340 (September) 1956.

Dr. F. L. Flack, Dr. W. Norvell Coots and Dr. Charles J. Bate. A summary of the article, Repair of Massive Sliding Hernias With Tantalum Mesh (91:856-857, May, 1956, *American Journal of Surgery*) appears in the September issue of GP, page 142.

Dr. Paul O. Shackelford. Book Review of Therapy of Fungus Diseases: An International Symposium. Edited by Thomas H. Sternberg, M.D. and Victor C. Newcomer, M.D. 332 pp., Little, Brown & Company, Boston, Massachusetts, 1955. *Journal of the Oklahoma State Medical Association*, 49:366 (September) 1956.

A rare book of considerable interest, especially to dermatologists, in the Library of the Tulsa County Medical Society is one by Samuel Plumbe on diseases of the skin published in 1837.

Publishers of that period had a habit of printing a complete description of the book on the title page, and this one is no exception with the title page reading as follows:

A practical treatise on diseases of the skin, arranged with a view to their constitutional causes and local characters; including the substance of the essay to which the Royal College of Surgeons awarded the Jacksonian Prize, and all such valuable facts as have been recorded by Continental authors on these subjects to the present time, by Samuel Plumbe, late Senior Surgeon to the Royal Metropolitan Infirmary for Children and Acting Surgeon to the St. Giles and St. George's Parochial Infirmary, etc. Fourth edition, revised, corrected, considerably enlarged and with additional engravings. London. Printed for Sherwood, Gilbert and Piper, Paternoster Row, 1837."

Tulsa doctors will find this unusual item of much interest and are invited to inspect it at the Library.

BOSTON PATHOLOGIST SET FOR OKLAHOMA CITY LECTURE

The distinguished American pathologist, Dr. Shields Warren, Professor of Pathology at Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts, will give the Annual Alpha Omega Fall Lecture at the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine, November 8, 1956. His subject will be "The Effect of Radiation on Man and His Environment."

The meeting will be at 8:00 P.M. in the Medical School Auditorium at Oklahoma City. All physicians are invited and urged to attend.

A graduate of Harvard Medical School, Class of 1923, Dr. Warren has been Chief of Pathology at New England Deaconess Hospital and New England Baptist Hospital, both in Boston, for many years. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Pathology, fellow of the American College of Pathology, and

member of numerous medical organizations. Dr. Warren is a former President of the American Society for Experimental Pathology, former President of the American Academy of Pathologists and Bacteriologists, former President of the American Association for Cancer Research, and is now Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board to the Armed Forces Institute. He is advisor to numerous government bodies, widely known for his research in cancer and other fields, and author of numerous publications and textbooks.

Visiting Tulsa last month as a guest speaker for the Frisco Medical Association meeting of October 26-27 was DR. THOMAS H. WEST, former Tulsa obstetrician now residing in Memphis, Tennessee.

DR. DANIEL L. PERRY is now residing in Cathedral City, California.



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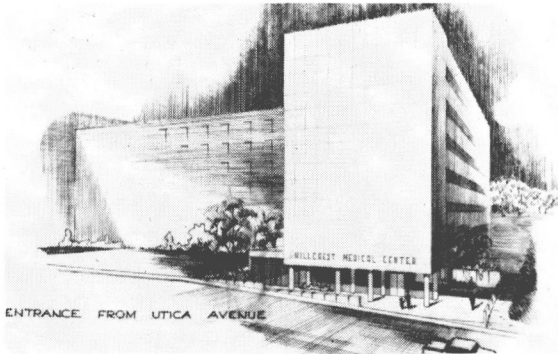
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HOSPITAL BED SHORTAGE SEEN CONTINUING FOR TULSA

The Public Health Committee of the Tulsa Chamber of Commerce last month foresaw a minimum shortage of 182 general hospital beds by January, 1959, despite a current hospital construction and expansion program.

Dr. Marshall O. Hart, Chairman of the Hospital Study Sub-Committee, reported Tulsa County now has 1,105 beds in acceptable general hospitals. Using a formula of six beds per thousand persons of population, a figure taking into account the large number of patients served from Northeastern Oklahoma counties, the County should now have 1,927 beds. This leaves a shortage at the present time of 822 beds. The computation is based on the population figure of 321,241 issued recently by the Federal Housing Administration.

The new St. Francis Hospital is expected to provide 250 beds, while an addition at St. John's to be opened this winter will add another 180 beds. A building program at Hillcrest Medical Center expected to begin soon will produce 210 more beds. "Assuming the population does not increase by January, 1959, which is most unlikely, the shortage would be 182 beds at that time," Dr. Hart said.

These figures, prepared by the Oklahoma State Hospital Association, do not take into account specialized needs in the fields of chronic diseases, nervous and mental disorders, and contagious diseases. Additional needs were seen for convalescent facilities and homes for the aged.

A resolution approved by the Committee calls for a continuing study of hospital facilities with long range planning to meet the growing needs of the County.

DR. AVERILL STOWELL gave a paper on scalenus anticus syndrome at the annual meeting of the International College of Surgeons in Chicago, Illinois, September 10-13. DR. FRED PERRY of Tulsa also attended the meeting.

DR. GEORGE R. KRIETMEYER is recovering from a broken back suffered in a water skiing accident.

DR. R. M. SHEPARD has returned from a Mississippi vacation.

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REPORT

September, 1956

Hospital	Bloods Used:	Replac- ements:	% Repl.
St. John's	612	231	37.8%
Hillcrest	342	185	54.0%
Byrne	18	8	44.4%
Mercy	0	8	0.0%
Osteopathic	60	0	20.0%
Moton	8	1	12.5%
Broken Arrow.....	8	4	50.0%
Tulsa Osteo.....	7	0	0.0%
Other Hospitals..	59	113	191.5%
Totals	1,194	554	46.3%

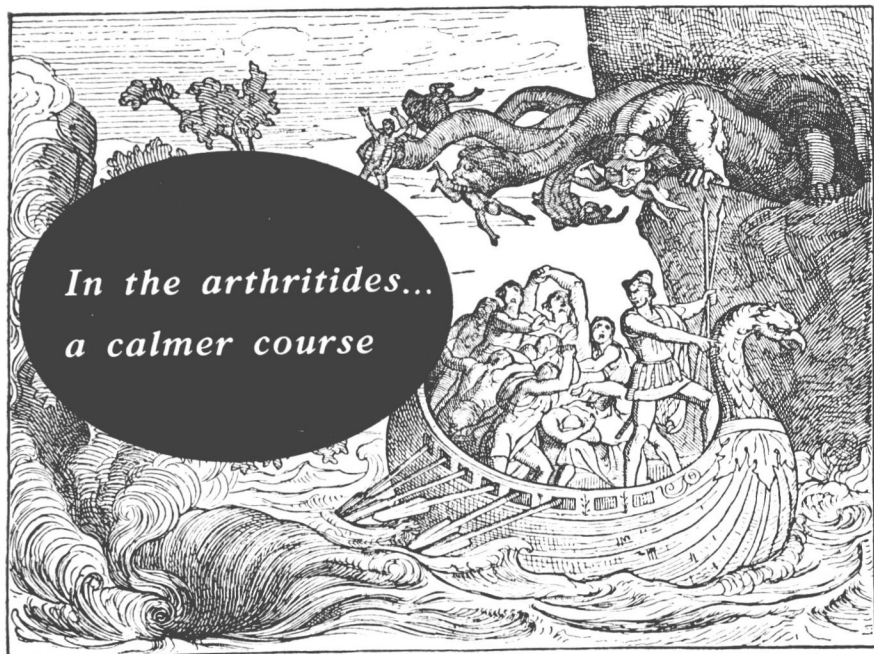
Dr. Betty Conrad, Medical Director of the Tulsa County Red Cross Blood Center, again appealed last month for information from doctors as to the need and potential value of quick frozen single dose plasma for treating hemiophilia and similar diseases.

The Center plans to manufacture in plasma in both specific and non-specific types if a need for it locally can be demonstrated. Dr. Conrad asks that physicians advise her how many hemophiliac patients they have at the present time and if such plasma would be of use in those cases. Doctors may telephone Dr. Conrad at LUther 4-4281. The Center would like the name of the patient, age, weight, blood type, and name of parents if a minor.

The anti-hemophiliac plasma would be given without charge to Tulsa County residents in local hospitals.

Tulsa physicians appearing on the program of the Oklahoma-Arkansas Regional Meeting of the American College of Physicians in Tulsa, October 20, 1956, included DR. THOMAS H. FAIR, DR. FELIX R. PARK, and DR. EARL I. MULMED. Local arrangements for the meeting were under the direction of DR. S. C. SHEPARD.

Speakers for the Central High School Pre-Med Club last month included DR. DONALD, L. BRAWNER, DR. DAVE B. LHEVINE, DR. SUMNER YALE ANDELMAN, and DR. DONALD L. MISHLER.



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¹Busse, E.A.: *Treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis by a Combination of Cortisone and Salicylates*. *Clinical Med.* 11:1105

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BLUE CROSS-BLUE SHIELD NOW SERVICING STEEL CONTRACT

The Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans of Oklahoma announced last month it would service the so-called "Steel Contract" negotiated elsewhere for employees of eight national firms with offices or installations in Oklahoma.

Benefits under the contract are substantially higher than for the standard Blue Cross and Blue Shield agreements. It was emphasized by Plan officials that the increased benefits are applicable only to members with the buff-colored identification cards. Service dates from September 1, 1956.

The participation of the Oklahoma Plans is due to its relationship to the national Blue Cross and Blue Shield organization set up to service contracts negotiated on a national (rather than state or regional) basis and to act as a clearing house for interplan credits.

Only employees of the following firms are covered under the new agreement: United States Steel Corporation, National Tube Division, Tennessee Coal and Iron Company, American Steel and Wire Company, United States Steel Supply, Oil Well Supply Company, Bethlehem Steel Corporation, and Bethlehem Supply Company.

Members of the Tulsa County Medical Society and other Oklahoma doctors have been furnished with a summary of the increased benefits. Additional inquiries may be addressed to the Professional Relations Department, Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans of Oklahoma, 1215 South Boulder, Tulsa.

In attendance at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology at Chicago, October 15-18, were DR. DONALD L. MISHLER, DR. ROBERT W. SPENCER, DR. HUGH J. EVANS, DR. OTIS S. LEE, DR. CHARES G. STUARD, and DR. ROYAL E. STUART.

DR. E. MALCOLM STOKES and DR. LESTER I. NIENHUIS have been named as Fellows of the American College of Surgeons.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTION SET FOR HOMEBOUND STUDENTS

Tulsa school children who are confined to their home because of illness may receive special instruction from homebound teachers upon certification of a medical doctor, it was announced last month by Dr. Marcella R. Steel, City Schools Physician.

Dr. Steel said a teacher would visit the child three times per week for a one hour lesson each visit. The service is available to children whose illness will keep them away from school thirty days or more.

The qualifying diagnosis must be on the basis of a physical condition. Psychiatric diagnoses or children with behavior problems are not accepted. The physician must certify the child's physical condition in writing, Dr. Steel said, before the instruction can begin.

In attendance at the annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists in Chicago, October 7-10, 1956, were DR. I. H. NELSON, DR. EMIL E. PALIK, and DR. LEO LOWBEER.

DR. FRANK A. STUART has been vacationing in Lake Placid, New York.

DR. LAWRENCE A. RATCHFORD has removed his practice to Tampa, Florida.

DR. L. A. MUNDING has been visiting his children in school at Prairie-du-Chien, Wisconsin.

DR. G. R. RUSSELL has been vacationing in New York, N. Y.

Guest speakers at the annual meeting of the Oklahoma State Society of X-Ray Technicians in Tulsa, October 27-28, included DR. WALTER E. BROWN, DR. DONALD F. MAURITSON, DR. LUCIEN M. PASCUCCI, and DR. COLEMAN H. ROSENBERG.

DR. JAMES C. PETERS has returned from Cincinnati, Ohio, where he served as a delegate from Oklahoma to the Annual Meeting of the American Heart Association, October 26-30.

DR. SOL WILNER attended the annual meeting of the American Roentgen Ray Society in San Francisco, California, September 26-30, 1956.

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Editorial

BRIDGE OF COMMON INTEREST

Have you ever stopped to ask yourself, doctor, why some 37 million Americans have enrolled in Blue Shield, the medical profession's own approved prepayment program, in a little more than ten years' time?

Blue Shield and its companion Blue Cross have accomplished the most stupendous enrollment of any insurance program ever offered the American people—at a minimum of expense and by relatively "low pressure" sales methods. This accomplishment has been possible because there is now an almost universal desire for protection against the costs of unpredictable illness. The chief reason why so many people have chosen Blue Shield is that they know it is recommended and supported by the medical profession, and most people have confidence in the nation's doctors.

By the same token, more Americans have chosen Blue Cross than any other hospital insurance program because Blue Cross is sponsored by the hospitals, and the public believes in the integrity and efficiency of our voluntary hospital system.

Doctors and hospitals have created for themselves an immeasurable store-house of good will in these Plans. But the preservation of this great asset depends upon eternal vigilance on the part of physicians and hospitals.

When the doctor speaks well of Blue Shield, when he renders the best service he is capable of rendering to Blue Shield patients, when he tries to conserve the resources of Blue Shield against extravagance or abuse, when he conscientiously fulfills his voluntarily accepted obligations as a Participating Physician, then he is helping to preserve and increase this asset. He is helping to make ever more formidable the shield that protects the freedom of medical practice.

Blue Shield is also a bridge of common interest and mutual benefit between the doctor and his patient—it is evidence to each of the trust and confidence of the

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other. Blue Shield is an assurance to the patient of prepaid service when he needs it—and to the doctor, it assures prompt reimbursement for his services.

A LESSON IN THRIFT

The Hartford County (Connecticut) Medical Society recently studied probate court records involving the estates of some 144 doctors. The results are shocking in the disclosure that most left their estate in a sorry state of affairs.

For instance, one out of eight physicians who died between 1940 and 1953 were in debt at the time of death.

One out of three left net assets of less than \$10,000.

One out of three left no will.

Expenses of the settlement of the estates ranged from 13 per cent to 34 per cent.

Only one doctor in eight survived his wife!

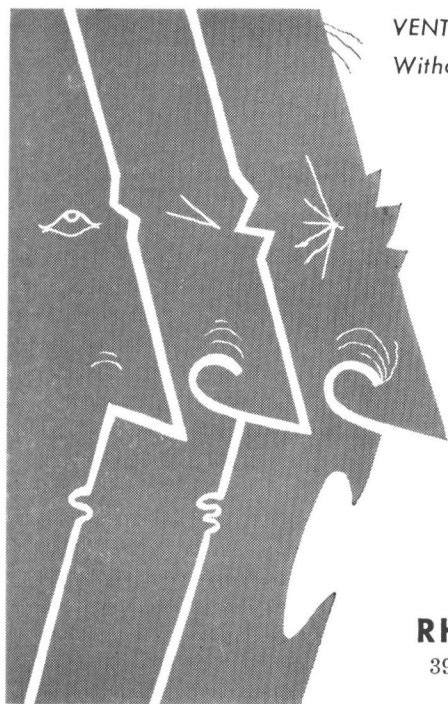
Doctors in the ages of 40 to 50 die at twice the rate of the general population, and doctors age 60-70 have a death rate 50 per cent higher than the normal figure of insurance actuaries.

These simple figures should be a lesson in themselves to most doctors. The need for a will is obvious. A few dollars spent with a competent attorney will assure minimum charges against your estate and the distribution of the proceeds as you might wish.

More serious is the necessity of providing for the widow. From time to time a sad tableau has been repeated in the Executive Offices of the Tulsa County Medical Society—a doctor's widow seeking employment as a means of meeting her daily needs. Jobs for the older and untrained woman are not easy to find. With a little foresight and careful investment, this need never happen again.

The situation is not entirely limited to widows. Many physicians have reached old age without enough to keep them in the later unproductive years. They become dependent upon children or the meager income of a working wife. Serious, too, are the psychological results of such a situation.

Many of us need a lesson in thrift.



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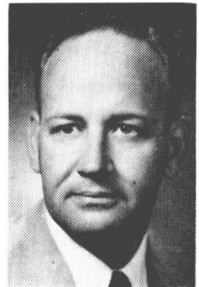
NEW APPLICANTS

The following physicians are applicants for membership in the Tulsa County Medical Society:

Curtis N. Clifton, M.D. 543 East Apache, Tulsa. Pre-Medical Education, Union College of Lincoln, Nebraska. Medical Degree, University of Oklahoma School of Medicine, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Class of 1955. Interned Hillcrest Medical Center, Tulsa, 1955-56. Military service, United States Army, 1944-46. General Practice. Recommended by Dr. Samuel A. Capehart and Dr. William J. Osher.



V. William Wood, M.D. Springer Clinic, 604 South Cincinnati, Tulsa. Pre-Medical Education, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma. Medical Degree, Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans, Louisiana, Class of 1952. Interned Charity Hospital New Orleans, Louisiana, 1952-53. Resident in Internal Medicine and Cardiology, Charity Hospital, New Orleans, Louisiana, 1953-55. Fellow in Cardiology, National Heart Institute, and Instructor in Medicine, Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans, Louisiana, 1955-56. Military Service, United States Navy, 1944-46. Specialty, Internal Medicine. Recommended by Dr. Carl J. Hotz and Dr. Charles E. Brighton.



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Guest speakers for the indoctrination course in malpractice prevention and defense conducted at Hillcrest Medical Center, October 15, for residents and interns included DR. MARSHALL O. HART, DR. WILKIE D. HOOVER, and DR. FRED E. WOODSON.

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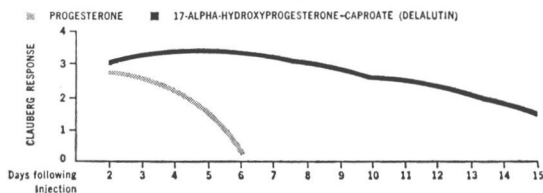
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Guest speakers for the regional meeting of the Oklahoma State Bar Association at Grand Lake October 26th included DR. JOHN F. GRAY, JR. and DR. DONALD L. BRAWNER.

DR. DIXON N. BURNS was a guest speaker for the Ottawa County Medical Society at Miami, Oklahoma, October 18, 1956. His subject was "Gynecological Bleeding."

DR. HORACE H. PORTER and DR. A. B. EDDINGTON have taken new professional office quarters at 2570 South Harvard, Tulsa.

DR. C. THOMAS THOMPSON was guest speaker for the Kay-Noble County Medical Society on October 9, 1956, at Ponca City. His subject was "Surgical Aspects of Gastro-Intestinal Disorders." His paper was discussed by DR. JOE L. SPANN of Tulsa.

DR. DANIEL M. MacDONALD has been a patient at St. John's Hospital where he underwent eye surgery. Dr. MacDONald has announced plans to close his office and retire from the practice of medicine.

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(Continued From Page 7)

Dr. Edward L. Moore will introduce Dr. Wagner.

The 1956 schedule of meetings for the Tulsa County Medical Society will conclude on Monday, December 10, with the annual business meeting and election of officers. There will be no scientific program.

Dr. James C. Peters, Chairman of the Program Committee for 1957, has announced guest speakers for the first three meetings of the Society for next year as follows:

On Friday, January 18, 1957, Dr. William Randolph Lovelace II, widely known surgeon of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and leader in national aviation medicine research circles, will be the guest speaker at a special dinner dance commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Society. The event will be at The Mayo. Following a social hour, dinner and program, members will dance to the music of Honey Hudgens and Her Orchestra. Complete details will be found in the December issue of The Bulletin.

Dr. Henry Doubilet, Associate Professor of Surgery at New York University School of Medicine, New York, N.Y., will be guest speaker for the meeting of Monday, February 11, 1957.

Scheduled for Monday, March 11, 1957, is Dr. Ben Eiseman, widely known specialist in liver disease and Chief of Surgery at the United States Veterans Administration Hospital, Denver, Colorado.

MALPRACTICE SUITS

(Continued From Page 18)

A final consideration in the malpractice action is a serious and important one to every doctor—a willingness to fight those claims which are not justified. Too often, the fear of newspaper and other publicity leads the accused doctor into panic, and he insists upon settlement of the case irregardless of its lack of merit. Such action not only encourages further suits, but will eventually lead to a drastic increase in liability insurance premiums. However distasteful the publicity may be, the defendant-doctor must stand firm in his determination to seek justice.

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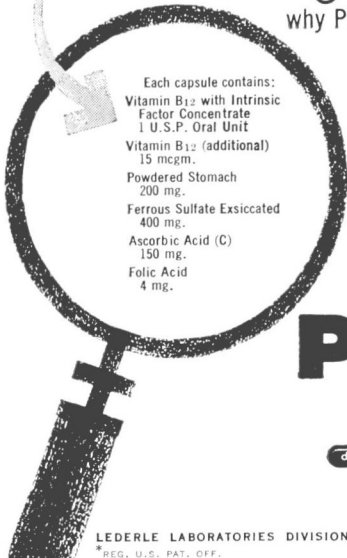
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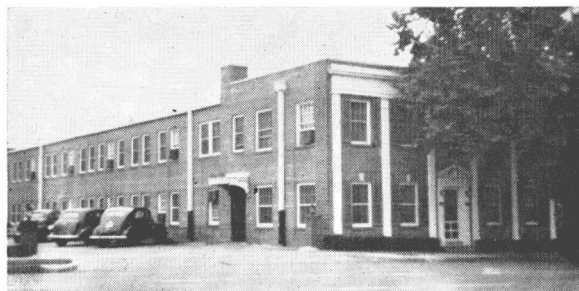
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