

THE BULLETIN

OF THE

TULSA COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

TULSA COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY
1202 Medical Arts Building
TULSA, OKLAHOMA



State Convention May 11-12

IN THIS ISSUE



War And The Medical Society



Malpractice Insurance History



State Convention Plans



Medicine And The Press — An Editorial

Vol. 9 ▲ Tulsa ▲ MARCH ▲ Okla. ▲ No. 3

TULSA COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY
1202 Medical Arts Building
TULSA, OKLAHOMA

Exigency of War

OLEUM PERCOMORPHUM 50% is now known as Oleum Percomorphum 50% with Viosterol. This product consists of the liver oils of percomorph fishes, viosterol, and fish liver oils, a source of vitamins A and D in

which not less than 50% of the vitamin content is derived from the liver oils of percomorph fishes (principally *Xiphias gladius*, *Pneumatophorus diego*, *Thunnus thynnus*, *Stereolepis gigas* and closely allied species).

In compliance with War Production Board Order L-40, to conserve vitamin A supplies during war-

time, capsules of Mead's Oleum Percomorphum 50% With Viosterol now contain 83 mg. of oil, equivalent to 5,000 vitamin A units and 700 vitamin D units per capsule.

The new size capsule is now supplied in boxes containing 48 and 192 capsules—about twice the number of capsules without increase in price to the patient.

Contrary to rumors, the potency remains the same; namely 60,000 vitamin A units and 8,500 vitamin D units per gram.

Speaking of Records---

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\$20,000 Returned To Doctors in 1942, The Highest Collection Year In the History of the Bureau.

Record Number Two:

Serving an All-Time Record Number of Physicians And Surgeons In Tulsa—120 Clients.

Record Number Three:

Providing An Efficient Collection Service At Fees Based On Actual Costs. The Bulk of All Accounts Collected At 20 and 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ Per Cent. You Pay No Profit Margin.

Record Number Four:

Now Serving The Greatest Number of Accounts In The History Of the Bureau.

Record Number Five:

Now Providing Credit Information Without Cost To All Clients Of The Bureau.

Record Number Six:

Greatest Year In History Of The Bureau In Building Good Will Through Results Obtained.

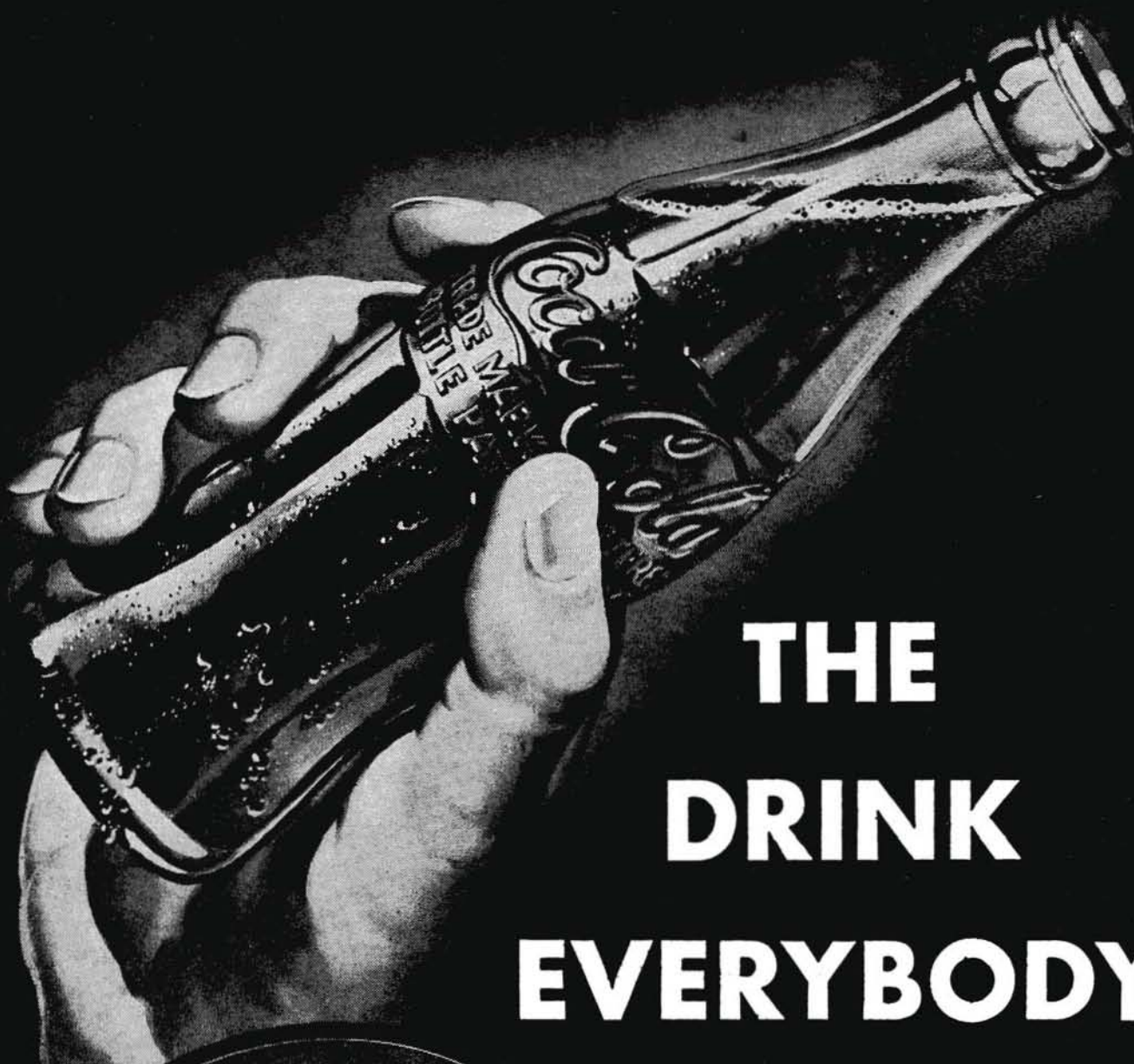
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THE BULLETIN

OF THE

TULSA COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

J. C. Peden, M.D., *President*R. A. McGill, M.D., *President-Elect*H. A. Ruprecht, M.D., *Vice-President*E. O. Johnson, M.D., *Secretary-Treasurer*Jack Spears, *Executive Secretary*

VOL. 9

TULSA, OKLAHOMA, MARCH, 1943

NO. 3

War and the Medical Society

Conflict Brings New Problems To Medical Societies In All Parts Of The United States. The Loss Of Membership Is The Most Serious To Both Community And Society. Tulsa Organization Advocates Post-War Planning.

In all parts of the United States medical societies are undergoing a constant adjustment to meet the needs of war. The Tulsa County Medical Society is no exception. With a full year of war behind it, the Society has completely altered its methods of operations. Its many peacetime functions have been complemented by new functions springing directly from the current conflict.

War has brought new problems to all medical societies. The most serious of war-born problems is the loss of membership and its widespread ramification. The Tulsa County Medical Society has contributed an even 48 doctors from an original membership of 210. The loss of these members is felt in a great variety of ways. Many of the departing doctors were leaders in medical society affairs. In their absence it becomes necessary for others to assume the duties of these men, to fill their places on committees, to serve as an officer or trustee, and to participate in the Society's schedule of work. Older physicians, who have previously made their contribution of service to the Society, are called back into harness. It is a responsibility which the remaining members of the Tulsa County Medical Society have accepted with readiness. In a sense, this acceptance of duty is a gesture of appreciation for the men who have entered the service.

The Tulsa County Medical Society

last year lost its capable vice-president, Dr. Roy L. Smith. The program committee's energetic Dr. G. H. Henry and Dr. Eugene Wolff were called to service. The Bulletin suffered through the loss of Dr. H. N. Schwartz. The fine library of the Society was due partially to the cooperation of Dr. John G. Matt, Dr. E. Rankin Denny, and Dr. M. D. Spottswood. Dr. Fred Perry was lost from the Credit Bureau committee. Dr. R. C. Pigford of the Legislative committee and Dr. J. D. Shoop of the Insurance committee were forced to relinquish their committee duties. These and many others who served the Society so capably are now serving Uncle Sam just as capably. Those who have replaced these men are performing their Society duties in an efficient manner.

Naturally, the loss of this great number brings additional problems of maintaining Society finances on a sound basis. Since in-service members pay no dues, the Tulsa County Medical Society is deprived of more than a thousand dollars of income. Fortunately, through careful economy in the Executive Office, it has not become necessary to reduce the number of services offered to the membership. Rather, they have been increased. It does, however, become essential that finances be watched more closely than ever before. The Tulsa County Medical Society was pleased

that it was not necessary to increase the annual dues of members although most medical societies in the nation did make substantial increases. The Oklahoma State Medical Association, feeling the loss of several hundred members, was forced to increase annual dues from \$10.00 to \$12.00.

The most important result of this loss of membership is the greatly increased schedule of practice which Tulsa County physicians must now bear. With the population growing at a rapid rate and the number of available physicians dropping, the demand upon doctor's time is becoming increasingly heavy. The situation is not yet acute, fortunately, and medical services are adequate for the Tulsa community at this time. What further losses of doctors and population increases will do to alter the situation in the future is problematical.

The war has brought to Tulsa many new defense plants whose workers must be provided with medical care. Provisions for medical care of workers in most plants, either by company or individual, has demanded the services of many doctors. The result has been a decreased amount of time for private practice, but the result has included a healthy community. The doctors of Tulsa county, by keeping workers fit for their jobs, have made a valuable

contribution to the war effort.

The Medical Credit Bureau, official collection agency of the Society, has been able to report a much higher percentage of collections. With salaries and wages rising higher and higher, patient-debtors have the funds to liquidate long-standing medical bills. The percentage of bad debts has fallen sharply for the doctor. As a result, the Medical Credit Bureau does not receive as many accounts as formerly when considered on the basis of size of practice. However, increased practice has resulted in an increase in the absolute number of accounts turned for collection. Consequently, the Medical Credit Bureau has enjoyed the most successful year since its establishment, with 1943 looking even more promising. The Bureau has suffered severely from the loss of accounts from members entering service. It has lost through inability to collect from soldiers. These losses have been offset by receipt of bulk accounts from members entering service, and in some measure by soldiers who continue to make periodic payments.

While the war has brought many new problems to the Medical Credit Bureau, it has achieved a beneficial effect by reducing losses through bad debts

(Continued in Next Issue)

State Convention in May

A well-rounded surgical and medical scientific program will feature the annual convention of the Oklahoma State Medical Association May 11-12 at the Skirvin Hotel, Oklahoma City. This year war emergencies have forced a shortening of the meeting to two days.

All special sections will meet, however, and roundtable discussions will be held at noon on both days of the meeting. All speakers this year will be Oklahoma physicians. No out-of-town speakers are available due to war and practice demands and transportation difficulties.

The scientific and commercial exhibits

are being dispensed with this year due to the shortened length of the convention.

The inaugural banquet will be held Wednesday, May 12, at which time Dr. James Stevenson, Tulsa dermatologist, will assume the reins of office. The Ladies Auxiliary is planning a program of social events.

Physicians are urged to make their plans for attending the convention now. Convenient bus and train schedules enable the doctor to attend with a minimum loss of attention to his practice.

Make your plans now! Remember, May 11-12 at Oklahoma City!

Malpractice Insurance History

Oklahoma Doctors May Thank The Tulsa County Medical Society For Annual Savings Of Several Thousand Dollars On Malpractice Insurance. Local Committees Do Valuable Work in Furthering Program.

By V. K. ALLEN, M.D.

Chairman, Insurance Committee, Tulsa County Medical Society

With the ever-present possibility of a real or imaginary complaint of a past or present patient, the careless remark of a competing physician, and the urgent insistence of the unscrupulous lawyer, the legitimate doctor is always faced with the possibility of a lawsuit. Yet, the proportion of doctors who protect themselves with malpractice insurance is small. The most popular malpractice policy, the state association's own malpractice insurance, has only 446 holders out of a total 1,430 doctors in the Oklahoma State Medical Association.

The effort to impress the doctors of this state with the importance of this insurance has not been great enough for their own welfare and protection. Many have to be sued to realize its value. Others have unwisely transferred all their properties to the names of their wives, not realizing that they can be sued jointly and effectively.

The history of the active organized interest by Oklahoma medical societies in the correct kind of malpractice insurance dates back only a few years. Shortly after the establishment of the Executive Office in the Tulsa County Medical Society in January, 1938, the need for a uniform malpractice policy was apparent. Dr. M. J. Searle, president of the Society at that time, appointed a committee to work with the Executive Secretary in determining what could be done towards establishing such a policy.

In August, 1938, after much preliminary committee work, it was reported that several recognized insurance companies were willing to write a group policy for physicians at a substantial savings to the individual. It was estimated that a savings of 25 to 50 per

cent on each policy could be obtained if a maximum amount of cooperation was obtained. Much of the credit for this preliminary committee work goes to Dr. J. C. Brogden, Dr. W. H. Calhoun, and Dr. H. D. Murdock.

During the following month, the Tulsa County Medical Society approved the proposed general plan and agreed to cooperate in the venture. The idea was simply that a minimum of 100 doctors would join in giving their malpractice policy business to a single company, which in turn was to prove such insurance at a lowered rate of premium.

Later in the year (1938), when the Society failed to find any company to meet the specifications proposed by the Committee, it became necessary to negotiate with companies outside the state. Originally, it had been planned to deal with a state organization.

The principles which the Tulsa County Medical Society felt should be embodied in the policy were as follows:

- (1) Broader coverage of practice.
- (2) Coverage of assistants if requested.
- (3) Authority of the medical society to name its own attorney to handle claims.
- (4) Drastice reductions in rates of premium.
- (5) A provision to change rates in accordance with the total number of policies written and the total amount of coverage.
- (6) Premiums on a cost-plus basis.
- (7) Coverage for radium, x-ray therapy, etc.
- (8) Coverage for clinics as a group.
- (9) Permission for the local society to pass upon the fitness of applicants.

The actual installation of the policy

on this basis was delayed by an unfortunate political situation in the state at that time. The proposal was disapproved by the State Insurance Board, and it was finally approved only after members of the Tulsa County Medical Society prevailed upon the governor to intervene in the matter.

The policy was originally written by the Houston Fire and Casualty Company of Houston, Texas, with reinsurance in Lloyds of London. Further difficulties arose when continued opposition to the plan by Oklahoma insurance officials almost resulted in the removal of the Tulsa agents from the Tulsa Insurance Board.

It was April, 1939, before the first individual policies were written. The introductory rate was \$24.75 per \$25,000 of protection. The estimated savings during the first year to Tulsa doctors alone was \$1,500.00. Had all state doctors participated, the savings would have been \$25,000.00. The Bulletin, official publication of the Tulsa County Medical Society, noted in June, 1939, that practically every other insurance firm in Oklahoma offering malpractice insurance had reduced premiums from 25 to 50 per cent in an effort to meet competition. Even then, the rates of outside companies remained higher than those of the new group policy.

Although the plan was developed by the Tulsa County Medical Society, it was available to other state counties on the same basis. Most of the original sales took place in Tulsa, however.

Due to a technical difficulty, the Houston Fire and Casualty Company was forced to retire from the program in 1941. The London and Lancashire Company of New York, represented in Oklahoma by W. M. Eberle & Company of Oklahoma City, assumed control in February of that year.

Dr. James Stevenson, chairman of insurance committee of the Tulsa County Medical Society, was instrumental in 1941 in promoting a more widespread program of malpractice insurances. By interesting the Oklahoma State Medical

Association in the project, he helped pave the way for statewide participation. Campaigns were undertaken in many counties. The result was a reduction in rates through increased sales in all parts of the state.

Until early in 1942, the master policy remained with the Tulsa County Medical Association. The Society felt that it had accomplished its objective in creating the policy, and that the state association was in a far better position to continue its promotion.

Much credit is due the Tulsa County Medical Society for the establishment of this policy. It has resulted in savings of thousands of dollars to Oklahoma physicians. It has provided a policy directly controlled by the medical profession. It has secured benefits not formerly obtainable through the old type of malpractice policies.

Many members of the Tulsa County Medical Society are also to be thanked for the personal time and money which they gave to the project. The Society itself was put to considerable expense, but an expense that has been well repaid by the results obtained.

To insure the continued operation of the plan, each county has its own insurance committee which handles all problems dealing with the malpractice policy. For instance, the Tulsa County Medical Society's Insurance Committee during 1942 were faced with the following problems:

(1) Transfer of the Master Policy to the Oklahoma State Medical Association. This was accomplished effectively and in a capable manner through the cooperation of all parties concerned.

(2) The providing of sufficient medical evidence to meet the needs of the attorneys in fighting several policy claim suits. These suits were successfully defeated, but only after competent medical evidence had been obtained.

(3) The organization of programs of information and publicity designed to acquaint the doctor with the nature of the protection afforded, and—a more



THE MEDICAL LIBRARY

Library of the Tulsa County
Medical Society



For Information Call
Veneta R Barlow, Librarian, 4-8161

9 A.M. to 5 P.M.
Saturday, 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.
Open Monday through Friday

RECENT ACCESSIONS

Gifts of the Month —

- The estate of Dr. Peter Cope White, Extra Ocular Muscles by Luther C. Peter, M.D., 1936.
 The Principles and Practices of Ophthalmic Surgery by Edmund B. Spaeth, M.D., 1940.
 The Ocular Fundus in Diagnosis and Treatment by Donald T. Atkinson, M.D., 1937.
 The First Century of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, edited by Joseph W. England, 1922.
 Dr. Maurice J. Searle, Abstract of Lectures in Internal Medicine, Oklahoma State Medical Association, by L. W. Hunt, M.D., 1942-1943.
 Dr. Lewis J. Moorman, Oklahoma City, Advances in Pediatrics, Adolph DeSanctis, M.D. Editor, 1943.
 Dr. Ned R. Smith, War Medicine, A Symposium by Edward Scott Pugh, M.D., Commander (MC) U.S.N. Retired, 1942.
 Dr. A. W. Roth, The bulk of his private library, consisting of approximately one hundred volumes, principally in the fields of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology.

BRIEF ABSTRACTS

The effects of large doses of cobra venom for the control of pain in rheumatoid arthritis, were found to be disappointing and contrary to previous reports. According to Robert H. Talkov, M.D., and Walter Bauer, M.D., in no case was improvement complete, dramatic or lasting.—The New England Journal of Medicine, 228:152-154:1943.

A NEW JOURNAL IN THE LIBRARY

The librarian invites your inspection of the new journal "Gastroenterology," the official Journal of the American Gastroenterological Association, which makes its bow to the medical profession with the January issue.

"Books are the legacies that genius leaves to mankind."—Addison.

USE YOUR LIBRARY

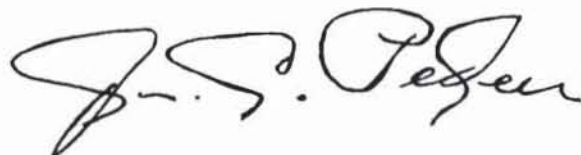
PRESIDENT'S PAGE

This year the difficulties occasioned by war have forced the Oklahoma State Medical Association to modify its annual convention to a two-day meeting devoted to pertinent medical problems. The usual four-day convention with its all-inclusive program must be foregone this year in the face of transportation difficulties, increased schedules of practice for Oklahoma physicians, and the hardships of constructing an effective program with out-of-town speakers.

With this two-day convention scheduled for the second week of May in Oklahoma City, it is not too early for Tulsa County physicians and surgeons to make their plans to attend. Despite the reduced program, the convention will feature a scientific program designed to meet the needs of the wartime doctor. Officials of the Oklahoma State Medical Association and the convention committees are completing arrangements for a streamlined program that will be of interest to every Oklahoma medical man.

It is important more than ever during a war crisis that the scientific knowledge of medicine be advanced. It is equally important that the morale of state medicine continues to receive the stimulus of the state convention. I urge you to make every effort to participate in the benefits afforded by the state convention. It will assist you to perform your part of the war effort in the most competent manner.

Sincerely,



President.

Medical Calendar

MONDAY, March 1st:

Hillcrest Hospital Staff Meeting.

Members of the Tulsa County Medical Society who have not applied for renewal of gasoline rationing books (other than Book A) should do so immediately at the War Price Rationing Board, 905 S. Cincinnati.

Members of the Tulsa County Medical Society who have not paid their first half dues of \$17.00 by this date are suspended without action for membership privileges. Reinstatement may be made by payment of dues at the Executive Office.

FRIDAY, March 5th:

Board of Trustees Meeting, Tulsa County Medical Society, 1202 Medical Arts Building, 1:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, March 6th:

Medical Broadcast, "Doctors At War", Radio Station KVOO, 4:00 p.m.

MONDAY, March 8th:

Scientific Program, Tulsa County Medical Society, Mayo Hotel, 8:00 p.m. Program to be announced later.

SATURDAY, March 13th:

Medical Broadcast, "Doctors At War", Radio Station KVOO, 4:00 p.m.

MONDAY, March 15th:

Final date to file federal income tax returns.
St. Johns Hospital Staff Meeting.

TUESDAY, March 16th:

Medical and Dental Office Assistants Meeting, Michaelis Cafeteria, 6:00 p.m. Program to be announced later.

FRIDAY, March 19th:

Board of Trustees Meeting, Tulsa County Medical Society, 1202 Medical Arts Building, 1:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, March 20th:

Medical Broadcast, "Doctors At War", Radio Station KVOO, 4:00 p.m.
Deadline for copy and announcements for the April issue of The Bulletin.

MONDAY, March 22nd:

Tulsa County Medical Society meeting for this date cancelled unless otherwise notified.

SATURDAY, March 27th:

Medical Broadcast, "Doctors At War", Radio Station KVOO, 4:00 p.m.

The BULLETIN*Editorial
Committee*.....

}	B. W. WARD, M. D., Chairman
	PHILIP SHRECK, M. D.
	H. N. SCHWARTZ, M. D.

Managing Editor.....JACK SPEARS

Published monthly on the 3rd day of each month at the executive offices of the Tulsa County Medical Society, 1202 Medical Arts Building, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Vol. 9 MARCH, 1943 No. 3

MEDICINE AND THE PRESS

It is not encouraging to the medical profession of this country to observe the recent and unfavorable newspaper publicity given to a number of leading medical societies in the United States. The unfortunate conviction of the American Medical Association on anti-trust charges resulted in a number of shallow editorial observations that commended the decision and failed to see the possible far-reaching catastrophic results which may occur. The acriminious exchange of charges and countercharges by medical and industry leaders before a Senate committee in regard to medical manpower were likewise misinterpreted by the press. In a neighboring state, the legislature found occasion via a disgruntled and dislicensed physician to condemn the state medical society for an act which was fair and just. Certain charges were made of the state society which should have properly been made to the legislature. The result, however, was a serious black-eye to organized medicine in the state. Our own Tulsa County Medical Society has had unfortunate experiences in the past when its valuable Clinic project was attacked on ill-considered surmises.

This unfortunate misunderstanding

which has long existed between press and medicine has seldom been deliberately furthered, but has developed through a continued lack of understanding of the principles of organized medicine by American journalists. It is severe from the point of medicine because the doctor is seldom endowed with the facilities to present his side of the question, to compete in the debate. While there are two sides to every question, medicine is seldom able to present its side.

Organized medicine, through the very nature of its code of ethics, does not desire to publicize itself. It does, however, believe in fighting for the medical well-being of the public. If the cost of this well-being is misunderstanding, public discredit, and a prolonging of the conflict, then the medical profession is entitled to a universal commendation for courage of its convictions.

Medicine asks only of the press a careful consideration of both sides of any question in which it is concerned. It asks that editorial opinion be the result of clear and prolonged thinking. It asks that the press not sacrifice the high medical standards of the profession in the treatment of news stories which tend to influence public opinion. Medicine, in turn, will continue to maintain its ever-present policy of establishing and interpreting its standards from the standpoint of public well-being. The price is almost nothing when compared with the results obtained.

FINAL NOTICE

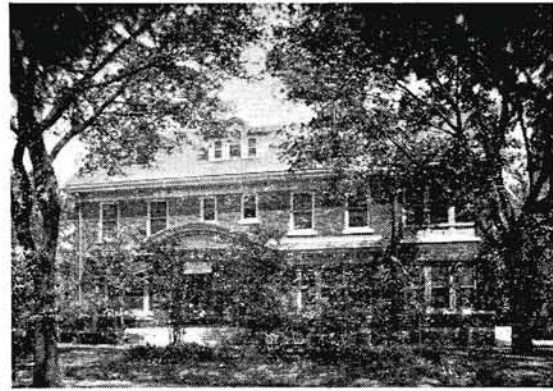
All doctors who have not paid at least the first installment of their 1943 dues to the Tulsa County Medical Society are suspended without action after March 1, 1943. Reinstatement may be made by prompt payment of dues to the Executive Offices, 1202 Medical Arts Building. Dues are \$34.00 annually, or \$17.00 per half-year installment. Members practicing outside of the city of Tulsa pay only \$22.00, due in one sum.

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**RETIRING DR. A. W. ROTH
DONATES FINE LIBRARY**

Dr. A. W. Roth, veteran specialist of Tulsa who last month announced his retirement from practice, has presented the Tulsa County Medical Library with the bulk of his fine personal library.

Dr. Roth, who served the Tulsa County Medical Society as president in the war year of 1917, gave approximately seventy-five fine medical textbooks and journals to the Library. Many are late editions.

Through Dr. Roth's generosity, the Library is provided with many excellent additions to its section on Eye, Ear, Nose, and Throat. The books are available in the Library at the present time.

**VICTORY TAX APPLICABLE
TO ALL INDIVIDUALS**

In answer to several queries, physicians are advised that they are subject to payment of the five per cent Victory Tax on their 1943 incomes regardless of the fact that most are not employees but are self-employed. The act provides that payment on 1943 income must be made not later than March 15, 1944. Many persons are misinterpreting the act as to apply only to salaried individuals.

However, physicians who are self-employed are not required to make quarterly returns as in the case for physicians who are employees. Where doctors are employed, their Victory Tax should be deducted proportionately from each check and remitted quarterly.

Members of the Tulsa County Medical Society are urged to make provisions for the payment of the Victory Tax in March, 1944. Since income taxes, now heavier than ever before, fall due at the same time, the burden of payment will be greatly increased.

Physicians are again reminded that they must withhold the tax from salaries paid assistants, nurses, technicians, chauffeur, etc., and remit quarterly. The amount to be withheld is five per cent of the net amount in excess of \$12 weekly, \$26 semi-monthly, or \$52 monthly.

**CERTAIN SYPHILITICS NOW
ACCEPTABLE TO ARMY**

Oklahoma State Headquarters for Selective Service has notified local boards that registrants with uncomplicated syphilis are now being accepted for induction into the army. Boards are now reclassifying such registrants and providing they have no other reason for deferment will be qualified as 1-A for general military duty. Regulations provide that not more than seven and one-half per cent of any current call may consist of such persons.

Tulsa County physicians are advised that such registrants so reclassified should present a form from his local board which will provide for information concerning his treatment for syphilis. By filling in the blanks, the physician may assist in preventing a duplication of treatment after the individual is inducted into the army.

Automobile license tags will not be available in the Executive Office after March 1, 1943. Tags may be secured by payment of penalty and original cost at the Tag Agent Office, Tuloma Building, Tulsa.

CLINIC REPORT

January 22-February 19

Surgery	78
Gynecology	16
Pediatrics	5
Diathermy	22
Medicine	657
Dental	46
Cardiac	25
Urology	23
T. N. T.	14
Eye	27
Rectal	4
Dermatology	27
Tumor	34
Tonsils & Adenoids	6
Varicose 5	10
Ultra Violet Ray	1
Obstretrical	2
Total	997

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60 DAYS OLD	17%	LOSS
90 DAYS OLD	35%	LOSS
120 DAYS OLD	50%	LOSS
6 MONTHS OLD	70%	LOSS
9 MONTHS OLD	80%	LOSS
1 YEAR OLD	90%	LOSS

More accounts will be collected and your losses reduced by referring your unpaid accounts to your Bureau for collection each month.

Do it today. Delay means losses.

MEDICAL CREDIT BUREAU

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Lay Medical Articles

Medical articles of interest to both physician and patient appearing in lay magazines during February included:

"Up From Thea Sea". Time, February 15, p. 72. A review of medical attention normally required by rescued seamen.

"Blood For The Wounded". By Ruth Carson. Colliers, February 6, p. 14. America's blood plasma banks are saving countless lives on the war front.

"Penicillin". Time, February 8, p. 41. A new bacteriostatic drug that may prove to be the wonder drug of modern medicine.

"Hearing Devices". By Maxine Davis. Good Housekeeping, March, p. 39. Sound information concerning devices to aid the deaf in hearing.

"Painless Childbirth". Time, February 1, p. 38. Anesthesia and childbirth.

"Stretching The Doctors". Time, February 1, p. 40. The doctor shortage and the war manpower commission.

"The Average Woman". Colliers, February 27, p. 74. By Judith Chase. The psychology of the average woman.

"No Cure For Malaria". Time, February 1, p. 40. A reply to Paul DeKruif's much discussed articles concerning atabrine and malaria.

"Surgical Sewing Machine". Time, February 15, p. 72. The Singer company perfects a new sewing machine designed to aid surgeons.

"Blood Savers". Time, February 15, p. 72. The use of salt in preservation of blood.

PERSONALS

LT. COM. G. H. HENRY was a Tulsa visitor during February.

LT. W. B. BOONE has been re-assigned to Randolph Field, San Antonio, Texas, after a brief stay at Carlisle Barracks, Pa.

DR. NED R. SMITH has returned to a limited schedule of practice after an illness of several weeks.

DR. A. W. ROTH is retiring from active practice.

DR. V. K. ALLEN has returned to practice after an attack of influenza.

DR. G. A. WALL underwent a successful eye operation in February.

LT. JOHN G. MATT has been transferred from Camp Livingston, La., to Camp Howze, Texas.

DR. SAMUEL C. SHEPARD has entered the Navy medical corps.

DR. L. C. PRESSON is recovering from an eye operation.

Named as Library Committee members for 1943 were DR. DAVID V. HUDSON, DR. J. C. BROGDEN, and DR. JOSEPH FULCHER.

DR. H. A. RUPRECHT has returned to his office after an illness from serum poisoning.

DR. W. H. CALHOUN, DR. K. C. REESE, and DR. E. L. COHENOUR have moved their offices on the eleventh floor of the Medical Arts Building. Dr. Calhoun is now in 1103, Dr. Reese in 1102, and Dr. Cohenour in 1101.

DR. W. E. WENDELL was elected to membership in the Tulsa County Medical Society at the meeting of February 8th. He has offices at 915 S. Cincinnati.

DR. MARGARET INGRAHAM, 915 S. Cincinnati, pediatrician, has her application for membership before the Tulsa County Medical Society.

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MALPRACTICE HISTORY

(Continued from Page 10)

important phase—to instruct him in the most effective manner of guarding against the arising of a malpractice charge.

(4) Approval of each doctor making application for coverage. Each doctor is investigated as to character, ethics, professional abilities, temperament, and habits of private life, etc., before a report is confirmed. In this way, through impartial consideration of such points, the loss ratio is reduced since undesirable applicants are refused coverage. This committee approval must be secured in each of the counties affected.

(5) The Committee has continued to sponsor the sale of such policies, although it does not actually do the selling. It merely acquaints by literature and verbal information the benefits of the policy.

(6) Finally, the local committee cooperates with the issuing company and its attorneys in making whatever adjustments are necessary to effect a fair rate of premium for the group policy.

Obviously, the reduction in the number of claims paid is responsible for further reduction in premium. The doctor has a direct interest in preventing malpractice suits, aside from the unfortunate publicity and discredit which such suits often bring.

A few principles should be observed by the physician in this respect:

(1) Maintenance of adequate medical precautions in the treatment of patients, with accurate records being kept to substantiate all actions. Errors may be costly.

(2) Proper consideration of complaints by the physician when the patient discloses his dissatisfaction. If a physician is diplomatic, rather than harsh and irritable, he may often quiet the troubled waters.

(3) Cooperation of physicians in testimony on the witness stand, and in their advice to the dissatisfied patient regarding his real or imaginary claims.

(4) The doctor must never discuss

the details of a claim or possible lawsuit with a layman. In doing this he avoids the possibility of a careless remark which may be detrimental later on.

Since the master policy has been in force, there have been 18 claims handled out of 450 policies in force. Total losses and expenses paid amount to \$6,124.27. There are now six law suits pending against doctors within the state, two of which are probably serious. The cost of handling each case is estimated to be \$750.00 in addition to any judgment which might be obtained.

The causes of eighteen claims include the following: Vilkman's Eschismic Contracture, bad results of fractured ankles, stains from mercury-collodial-sulphide, unsatisfactory treatment of eyes, paralysis resulting from spinal anesthesia, burns from electrodes, bad result of comminuted fracture of tibia and fibula, x-ray burn in cancer therapy, and many others.

In conclusion, it may be well to note that the medical officer in the army and navy stands in no different position with respect to answerability to his patients than that of a physician in civil practice. A person in military service may claim that an officer of the Medical Corps has in some manner been guilty of malpractice or negligence in treating or examining him in the line of duty. A similar claim may be pressed against an examining physician for a selective service board by a selectee called before the Board. The fact that he is in military service does not prevent him from asserting his civil rights as long as the interests of National Defense are not concerned. Medical officers so sued may be defended by a United States attorney, but the government does not assume the obligation of any judgment.

Therefore, since patriotic cooperation may be expected from all persons and since malpractice suits in Military Service are infrequent, the London & Lancashire Company has agreed to reduce all malpractice insurance policy rates 50 per cent for a physician in the armed services.

RATIONING NOTICE

Doctors: It is essential that your tire inspection records be retained as they must be submitted to the rationing board with each application for renewal of gasoline books. Place them in a safe and convenient place. Gasoline applications for renewal will be due in the Executive Office next on May 1, 1943.

The Executive Offices of the Tulsa County Medical Society wish to thank the building management of the Medical & Dental Arts Building for their generous cooperation.

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