TULSA, OKLAHOMA

#### THE BULLETIN

OF THE

#### TULSA COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY



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#### IN THIS ISSUE



Oklahoma State Medical Association Approves Surgical Care Insurance Plan



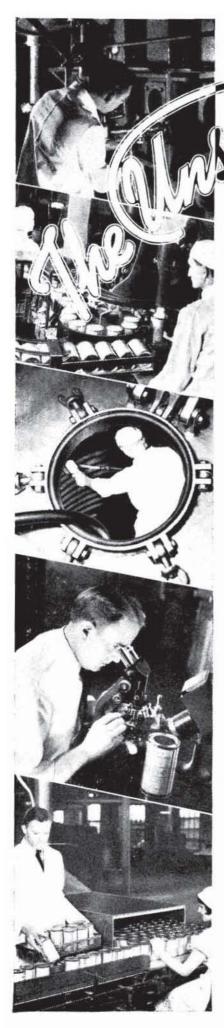
A History Of The Tulsa County Medical Society Part Eight



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OF THE

#### TULSA COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

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VOL. 10

TULSA, OKLAHOMA, NOVEMBER, 1944

NO. 11

#### SURGICAL CARE PLAN APPROVED

Proposed Surgical Care Plan of Voluntary Insurance Passes House of Delegates of Oklahoma State Medical Association by Vote of 56 to 3. Move Termed Most Progressive Step in Oklahoma Medicine.

Meeting in special session at Oklahoma City last October 22, the House of Delegates of the Oklahoma State Medical Association voted to approve a project which would create a plan of prepaid surgical and obstetrical care insurance for residents of Oklahoma. Designed as a measure to offset growing trends towards socialized medicine, the plan drew only three dissenting votes in the single ballot which followed a comparatively brief but heated discussion by the House members.

The action of the House of Delegates climaxed three years of activity by the Special Committee on Prepaid Surgical Care of the Oklahoma State Medical Association, headed by Dr. John F. Burton of Oklahoma City. The Association is now empowered to proceed with the organization of a non-profit corporation which will represent the surgical care plan and make arrangements for its sale to the public. While final details of the plan are yet to be devised, it is definitely provided for Group Hospital Service of Oklahoma (Blue Cross Plan) to handle the administrative details of operation for a flat fee based on actual costs.

The need for a plan of medical and/or surgical care insurance was first observed several years ago when increasing public pressure for medical security became apparent. The introduction of the Wagner-Murray-Dingel Bill in Congress

left little doubt about the intentions of the present administration in regard to socialized medicine. Dr. Burton's committee was appointed three years ago with instructions to study the situation and make recommendations as to the desirability of creating a plan of medical and or surgical care insurance in Oklahoma under state medical association auspices. The committee reported favorably to the House of Delegates at the 1943 meeting and was subsequently instructed to draw up a workable plan of surgical and obstetrical care insurance with provisions for eventual extension into all fields of medicine.

Considerable opposition to the project developed later and it was severely criticized and condemned by many medical groups and leaders in the state. The Committee proposed a plan based on unit remuneration for consideration by the House of Delegates at the 1944 annual convention. The unit plan failed to pass the House, principally because the details of the plan and the motives behind it had not been sufficiently publicized to enable a sound decision by delegates. The House of Delegates ordered a further consideration of the matter and postponed formal action.

The report of the National Physicians Committee entitled "The American People" and based on a public survey was instrumental in convincing Oklahoma doctors of the great need for medical and surgical care insurance, and of the public's actual demand for protection against the costs of catastrophic illness. It was believed that failure to create some solution to the problem within the medical profession itself would lead to solutions offered and operated by the federal government and its agencies.

The objection to the original plan as proposed by the Special Committee was the method of remunerating the physician—the socalled "unit" basis which amounted to a division of available funds on a pro-rated basis. In an effort to alleviate this situation, the Tulsa County Medical Society proposed an alternate plan which copied the state plan except that a specified indemnity fee scheduled was substituted for the unit basis of remuneration.

This compromise suggested by the Tulsa County Medical Society won quick support from many quarters. It was subsequently accepted by the Special Committee and offered for approval to the House of Delegates at the October meeting.

The report of Dr. Burton's committee was terse and to the point. It avoided voluminous details and sought approval on the basis of seven points:

 That the House of Delegates take definite action to establish a prepaid medical and or surgical care plan of voluntary insurance.

That the plan be organized under the existing insurance laws of the State of Oklahoma.

#### From The Editor

This issue of The Bulletin was published slightly later than usual in order that the results of the House of Delegates balloting on the prepaid surgical care plan (page 7) might be included. The December issue will appear at the regular time next month.

3. That the plan be a non-profit corporation.

 That the plan recognize free choice of Doctors of Medicine and of approved hospitals.

That the payment for services be on an indemnity basis...

 That the plan be incorporated for operation on a state-wide basis. However, each county may elect to participate in the plan and share proportionately in the initial financing of the project.

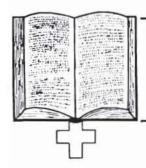
7. That control of the corporation be vested in a Board of Trustees composed of 15 members, nine of whom shall be Doctors of Medicine and six of whom shall be laymen, all to be chosen by the Oklahoma State Medical Association's Council as the original incorporators.

The committee avoided the contention which would possibly be caused by inclusion of too many administrative and operative details. The committee declined to submit a fee schedule until such time as a thorough study could be made of the problems involved therein.

It is reported that the Tulsa County Medical Society is interested in inaugurating the plan in Tulsa County for experimental purposes. There is considerable support of of Society members in the project although it has not been formally called to a vote of the membership. It is estimated that approximately \$10,000.00 must be raised from private sources in order to establish the plan in Tulsa County. Selection of Tulsa County as the initial center is prompted in great measure by the location of Group Hospital Service's executive offices.

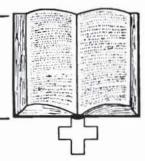
Dr. Ralph A. McGill, president of the Tulsa County Medical Society, termed the House's action as "the most forward step in Oklahoma medicine". It drew similar commendation from officials of the Oklahoma State Medical Association.

On the basis of questionnaires submitted to all Oklahoma doctors by the committee, it is believed that the large percentage of state physicians favor the project. A total of 443 doctors expressed



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Library of the Tulsa County Medical Society



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#### RECENT ACCESSIONS

New Books Received-

Pullen, Roscoe L., A.B., M.D., Medical Diagnosis. 584 illustrations. 12 colored plates. Pp. 1106. Saunders 1944.

Joslin, Elliot P., M.D., Treatment of Diabetes Mellitus. Seventh edition revised. Pp. 783. Lea and Febiger, 1940.

Hertzler, Arthur, M.D., The Doctor and His Patients, a sequel to the eleventh chapter of the Horse and Buggy Doctor.

Reprints Received-

Howard, Robert E., M.D., Relationship of Poliomyelitis and Tonsillectomy. Annals of Otology, Rhinology and Laryngology, March 1944.

Goodman, Herman, M.D., Approximately twenty-five reprints in the field of Dermatology, published in various medical journals between the years 1931 and 1944.
Lukens, F. D. W., The Pathogenesis of Diabetes Mellitus. The Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine, March 1944.

Gifts of the Month-

Dr. Monte C. Etherton, Nelson's loose leaf Diagnostic Roentgenology in two volumes. Ross Golden, M.D., Editor. 1941.

Dr. A. Ray Wiley, Current issues of the Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons.
Dr. T. B. Coulter, Current issues of the Journal of the American Medical Association, and the Oklahoma State Medical Association.

Dr. V. K. Allen, Principles of Hematology, Russell L. Haden, M.D., 1940.

Dr. A. W. Roth, Bulletin of The American College of Surgeons and Transactions of the American Academy of Opthalmology and orlarlyngology, current issues.

#### OF INTEREST

Papers entitled, "Ruptured Intervertebral Disc" by A. H. Ungerman, M.D., and "Some Laboratory Phases of Clinical Diagnosis" by I. H. Nelson, M.D., were published in the September issue of the Oklahoma State Journal.

The first issue of a new journal entitled "The Journal of Parenteral Therapy" published by Science Publications Council, has made its initial appearance to the profession, with the publication of the Fall number recently received in the library. To be published quarterly, this first issue contains information pertaining to Parenteral Dosages of Penicillin, Human Serum Albumin Concentrated, Instructions For Painless Venipuncture and Intravenous Therapy, Sterile Medicaments, Panel Discussion on Intravenous Therapy and a Review of Book Literature on Shock.

#### A HISTORY OF THE TULSA COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

Dr. Charles H. Ball and Dr. R. W. Dunlap Led The Tulsa County Medical Society Through Two Eventful Years. Scientific Programs Grow In Importance As Society Progresses.

> Part Eight Progressive Growth 1922-23

The new president of the Tulsa County Medical Society for 1922 was Dr. Charles H. Ball, an ex-newspaperman and cotton merchant whose interest in medicine and surgery eventually overcame the printer's ink which flowed through his veins. The son of a prominent physician and medical officer with the Union Armies in the Civil War, Dr. Ball was born in Ohio in 1867. He left his home in Illinois at an early age to become a reporter on the Evening Journal of Gainesville, Texas. In 1888 he came to Muskogee in Indian Territory and published a newspaper and legal journal for the Choctaw, Creek, lowa, Seminole, and Chickasaw Indian tribes. As it was printed in these Indian languages, Dr. Ball rapidly became a proficient linguist in the native Indian tongues. Later, he established the first newspaper at El Reno, Oklahoma, where his fearless campaigns against the abundant outlaw gangs won him considerable respect. Dr. Ball made the land rush when the Cherokee and Arapahoe lands were opened up, but was later to lose his property in a legal entanglement. He also was the sponsor of the first state fair in Oklahoma. In 1895, Dr. Ball left Oklahoma to become assistant editor of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, a position which he held for ten years. His duties included considerable printing and typesetting. Dr. Ball's interest in medicine became pronounced at this time and in 1902 he entered St. Louis Medical College, studying by day and supporting himself by working at night as a newspaper

printer. After his graduation in 1906, he practiced for a time in St. Louis, later serving as instructor in dermatology at St. Louis Medical College. Dr. Ball came to Tulsa in March 1917, and readily became identified with the activities of organized medicine. He and his wife, the former Mary Elizabeth Campbell, became civic leaders of distinction in Tulsa and many projects were accomplished through their enthusiasm and initiative. This was the type of man whom the doctors of Tulsa County chose to lead them in 1922.

Dr. Ball was faced with several problems at the outset of his administration. The Tulsa County Medical Society continued to work for regulation of Tulsa dairies and proper grading of milk and dairy products. Some regulation had been obtained earlier in 1921, primarily through the efforts of Dr. Ross Grosshart, but the need for additional regulation was strongly felt. The opposition of dairymen to this project was natural, but their cooperation was eventually obtained and a series of regulatory ordinances were eventually passed.

The Society was at odds with newly elected city officials in regard to the appointment of the City Superintendent of Health and the City Physician. The mayor and commissioners were reluctant to permit the Society to recommend physicians for these posts. Considerable ill-will developed but the adamant officials were not to be influenced.

Attempts to draw the outlines of

November, 1944 Page 11

professional conduct and ethics in more sharp distinctions were difficult. Many Tulsa physicians outside of the Society were guilty of disreputable practices that brought general public condemnation to the profession at large. The Society preferred charges against several such doctors, but the results obtained were not good for want of an effective method of discipline. As an instance, Dr. Ball had investigated reports that many Tulsa drug stores made a practice of recommending certain disreputable physicians. a common practice for the physician concerned to repay this favor in some manner. Of course, it was difficult to discipline the offending druggists. A widelypublicized case against one such offender did bring some reforms among the druggists themselves.

There was a considerable influx of new members in the Tulsa County Medical Society in 1922, many of whom are among today's medical leaders in the community. Among these newcomers were Dr. J. C. Peden, Dr. V. K. Allen, Dr. J. C. Braswell, Dr. H. Lee Farris, Dr. Malcolm McKellar, and Dr. J. C.

Brogden.

Tulsa opthalmologists organized the Tulsa Academy of Opthalmologists in 1922. It had only passing interest and was eventually disbanded. The idea was most commendable, however, and did much to unite the opthalmologists in scientific and social thinking. Tulsa pathologists were also active in similar lines with their interest in the State Serological Association, which came to Tulsa in January, 1922, for an annual two-day convention. Dr. W. Forrest Dutton of Tulsa was a guiding spirit in that struggling organization.

St. Johns Hospital resumed construction in 1922 after work was halted for lack of funds. The old Morningside Hospital at 512 N. Boulder was operating at near capacity and with a large staff. A picture of the staff, made in May of 1923, is preserved in the offices of the Tulsa County Medical Society, and shows a large portion of the Tulsa profession on the entrance steps. After twenty years,



DR. CHARLES H. BALL

it is of great interest. Many leading Tulsa doctors of today are included and their boyish appearance is accentuated by the outmoded clothes which they wear.

The Oklahoma State Medical Association met in Oklahoma City in May, 1922. It was again noted that few Tulsa doctors participated in the program. Dr. McLain Rogers of Clinton was elected president. With the exception of Dr. Fred S. Clinton and Dr. W. Albert Cook, no Tulsa doctors were named to state committees. This was not very representative for a society of 145 members.

Dr. Ball encouraged scientific programs and there was a sharp upswing in the number of papers presented locally. The subjects covered ranged from prostatic cancer to obscure ear conditions. Meeting twice a month, often as many as four papers would be offered. Attendence was normally about 50.

The Society members, ever aware of their responsibilities to each other, gave \$1,020.00 for a brain operation on a member suffering from tumor. It was a commendable gesture of Tulsa physicians and saved the life of a prominent Tulsa doctor.

Office space was at a premium. Many of the Tulsa physicians had returned from the army in 1919 to face an almost hopeless problem of securing necessary space. It was not alleviated in the immediate years that followed and many doctors were forced to practice in drafty, illlighted, and poorly-located buildings. The opening of the Atlas Life Building and the Day Building in 1923 helped greatly and there was considerable moving by physicians in that year. One Tulsa doctor the irrepressible Dr. R. W. Dunlap, remarked that any space was likely to be bad because of the large number of fraudulent Abram's Diagnostic Machines in nearby offices of osteopaths. The machines made so much static racket as to completely ruin the quiet atmosphere necessary for successful medical diagnosis.

Under rules adopted in 1921, the Tulsa County Medical Society began the practice of selecting the president a year in advance. This not only gave him an opportunity to prepare for his duties from observation of the incumbent, but made it possible to plan a program of activity in considerable detail and with the benefit of thorough thinking.

Dr. Roy Wilton Dunlap, who had served so ably as secretary in 1921 was named president-elect in that year to actually serve in 1923. A native Texan, born in 1878, he practiced for several years in Texas after his graduation from the Fort Worth School of Medicine. Locating in Tulsa after World War I, in which he served as a First Lieutenant in the Medical Corps, he took an immediate lead in organizational and professional activities. Elected to serve with him were Dr. B. W. McLean of Jenks, vice-president, and Dr. Horace T. Price, secretary-treasurer.

Dr. Dunlap carried on the work begun in the two previous administrations. The fight against irregular practitioners lessened somewhat in its fury, but there were redoubled efforts to secure clean-up legislation for the city's dairies, restaurants, and public restrooms. Dr. Fred S. Clinton headed an energetic legislative committee that investigated features of existing Oklahoma workmen's compensation legislation.

Working with the Tulsa Public Library, a library committee arranged for a medical section at the Public Library. This section grew substantially through donations of medical texts. However, it was felt by many members that the lack of specialized medical library facilities was not offset by the advantages of the medical section at the Public Library. Furthermore, there was some objection on the grounds that the medical section was open to the lay public. One member called attention to the fact that the average layman is not capable of interpreting the highly technical language of the professional texts. However, it was a beginning for the medical library of the Tulsa County Medical Society.

Dr. Dunlap made it plain at the our set of his administration that he would lay emphasis on scientific study. He asserted that the Tulsa County Medical Society was not for the purpose of airing personal grievances among the local profession, but an organization for the dissemination of scientific knowledge of medicine and surgery. While he did not ignore other problems and projects, scientific study was the order of the day. Many excellent papers were presented by local and guest out-of-town speakers. Among the more prominent physicians to deliver lectures were Dr. Fred S. Clinton, Dr. Fred Y. Cronk, Dr. T. W. Stallings, Dr. P. N. Charbonnet, Dr. L. C. Presson, Dr. Leon H. Stuart, Dr. D. O. Smith, and many others.

At the annual meeting of 1922, Tulsa had been honored with the election of Dr. Ralph V. Smith as president-elect of the Oklahoma State Medical Association. Born in Pennsylvania in 1871, Dr. Smith's father was a pioneer physician of Oklahoma. Following his graduation from Washington University Medical School, Dr. Smith practiced with his father at Guthrie. In 1914 he became a resident of Tulsa and soon acquired a large practice as an orthopedic surgeon. While taking a great interest in local medical affairs. Dr. Smith concentrated on state organiza-

#### Medical Calendar

#### WEDNESDAY, November 1st:

All physicians who have not applied for renewal of Basic B or C Gasoline Rations should do so immediately, providing their current rations are dated to expire November 1 or earlier. Applications for renewal should be filed approximately 10 days prior to expiration of current rations.

#### FRIDAY, November 3rd:

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

#### MONDAY, November 6th:

Hillcrest Hospital Staff Meeting.

#### SATURDAY, November 11th:

Final date for payment of quarterly premiums, Blue Cross Hospital Insurance, Office Assistants Group.

#### MONDAY, November 13th:

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

#### FRIDAY, November 17th:

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

#### SATURDAY, November 18th:

Copy deadline, December issue of The Bulletin.

#### MONDAY, November 20th:

St. Johns Hospital Staff Meeting.

#### TUESDAY, November 21st:

Medical and Dental Office Assistants Meeting. Time and place to be announced late.

#### THURSDAY, November 23rd:

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

#### MONDAY, November 27th:

No Tulsa County Medical Society meeting on this date.

#### THURSDAY, November 30th:

Semi-annual premiums, Blue Cross Insurance, Physicians & Surgeons Group become payable on this date.

#### PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The action of the House of Delegates of the Oklahoma State Medical Association last month in approving a plan of voluntary prepaid surgical and obstetrical care insurance represents a most progressive step forward in the history of Oklahoma Medicine. It is the contribution of this state's physicians and surgeons to the turbulent fight against the various forms of socialized medicine which are threatening this nation. It is a project undertaken in good faith that it will serve the public and assist them to attain a more stablized standard of living without the recurring fears of future catastrophies. It is a project of mutual benefit to the public and to the medical profession.

This important step has not been taken without the most serious consideration of all features, both good and bad, of the plan. Each doctor in Oklahoma has been asked to give a considered opinion of the merits of the project. In a way, the final plan, as outlined elsewhere in this issue of The Bulletin, is a product of the fine medical minds of Oklahoma. While the plan at present includes only surgery and obstetrics, every consideration will be given to all fields of medicine. This will insure a plan which will eventually operate for the equal benefit of all Oklahoma doctors. Eventually the plan will be extended to the other fields of medicine. First, however, one must crawl before walking.

I should like to take an opportunity to commend Dr. John F. Burton and his fine committee for the splendid job which they have done. It has been a long and hard task for them. This committee has made a courageous and sincere effort to construct their recommendations impartially and in the best interests of the profession. I believe that you will agree that they have succeeded very well and are due the thanks of every doctor of this state.

Sincerely,

Kaeph M. Gill

President.

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#### The BULLETIN

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JACK SPEARS, Managing Editor



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Vol. 10 NOVEMBER, 1944 No. 11

#### PROGRESS AHEAD

The proposed consolidation of existing public health units of the Tulsa area into a single metropolitan agency has been the subject of various civic projects during the past few years. A lethargic public attitude towards the matter has not encouraged concerted attempts in the matter of consolidation. It has remained for the Public Health Committee of the Tulsa Chamber of Commerce to come forth recently with a workable and detailed plan of operation for a combined health unit. This action represents a sincere attempt of a group of civic-minded citizens, including many physicians, to make a much-needed improvement in our health facilities. The proposal is now under consideration by the affected groups, and it appears that the plan has a reasonable chance of success.

The Tulsa County Medical Society have formally approved the principle of this consolidation. That action was taken in the belief that an improvement in the efficiency of operation might be obtained through consolidation of city, county, and state health units in this eare. The successful completion of this project will require something more than a formal resolution of support. The public is looking to the doctor, as the best informed

individual on the subject under consideration, to take the lead in bringing the new consolidated unit into support. Failure of the medical profession to give the project enthusiastic cooperation and leadership will discredit it in the eyes of the public.

The members of the Tulsa County Medical Society can, both individually and as a group, do much to encourage the establishment of a consolidated unit. This is a period when an overworked medical profession has little time for civic projects. Regardless of that fact, there is sufficient benefit in this project to make it well worth the time and effort which any doctor expends in its behalf.

The consolidation plan has long been advocated by the Tulsa County Medical Society. The impetus for the Chamber of Commerce came from medical leaders. A start has been made. It now remains for the medical profession of Tulsa to see that this worthy project is not abandoned for want of interest by the profession. From perhaps a selfish standpoint, it is imperative that Tulsa Medicine, the group most affected by a consolidation, take advantage of an opportunity to keep impractical lay ideas from entering the picture.

Your support is needed, doctor. Give it freely.

#### MAJORITY RULE

Majority rule has been the basic principle of American Democracy since the turbulent days of 1776. That same principle has been employed in governing American politics, business, and the professions.

A majority of the members of the Oklahoma State Medical Association have expressed their approval of a project to create a plan of voluntary surgical and obstetrical care insurance in this state under direct control of the medical profession. That move has not had the support of many Oklahoma physicians who sincerely believe that it is a step in the wrong direction. Such may prove

(Continued On Page 20)



JOHN L. STANLEY, Mgr.

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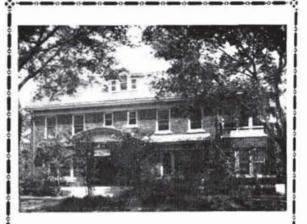
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#### WOUNDED IN GUAM LANDING

Lt. Com. Logan A. Spann, Tulsa physician now serving with the Navy medical corps, suffered slight wounds during the landings on Guam last July 23. The nature of Dr. Spann's wounds are not known but it is understood they are relatively slight. After a hospital checkup, he was permitted to return to active duty with his unit. Relatives in Tulsa were notified of his injuries on September 18. Dr. Spann is being returned to the United States and is expected in Tulsa early this month. Prior to his entrance into service, he practiced at his Tulsa offices in the Braniff Building.

#### SURGERY COURSE POSTPONED

The ten-weeks course of postgraduate medical study in Surgical Diagnosis, originally scheduled to open in Tulsa on October 13, has been indefinitely postponed pending the employment of an instructor. Dr. A. G. Fletcher, who was to have taught the course, has resigned his position. Officials of the Committee on Postgraduate Medical Study of the Oklahoma State Medical Associations, sponsors of the course, said doctors will be notified of the new dates as soon as possible. Those doctors who have already enrolled are advised that their enrollments are being held.

# Surgery 49 Cardiac 24 Diathermy 14 Rectal 20 Eye 22 Genito-Urinary 1 Obstetrics 2 Gynecology 8 Pediatrics 16 Urology 10 Varicose 12 Dermatology 25

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#### SOCIETY HISTORY

(Continued From Page 12)

tional activities. After his return from France in 1919, where he served as a Major in the Medical Corps, Dr. Smith resumed these interests and was subsequently rewarded with the presidency of the state association.

In further honor of Dr. Smith, the Oklahoma State Medical Association met in Tulsa May 15-17, 1923, for the annual convention and inauguration of officers. Dr. Fred Y. Cronk headed the convention committee which was responsible for a splendid scientific and social program. Mrs. G. A. Wall directed the activities of the Ladies Auxiliary. A large number of Tulsa doctors appeared on the program, in contrast to former conventions, and state physicians discovered some fine medical minds among the Tulsa speakers. Meetings were held in the Municipal Building at Fourth and Cincinnati.

Dr. Smith had a progressive and efficient administration. He brought many Tulsa doctors into the state medical association as active workers.

(To Be Continued)

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#### SURGICAL PLAN

(Centinued From Page 8)

approval as against 77 opposed and nine undecided. Service members voted 1 to 6 in favor of surgical care insurance under control of the medical profession itself.

The House of Delegates also approved other legislative projects relating to reallignment of the Oklahoma State Health Department, medical doctors as coroners, and supplemental legislation to the Basic Science Act. An analysis of these matters will appear in the December issue of The Bulletin.

#### MAJORITY RULE (Continued From Page 16)

to be the case, but it is the formal belief of a majority of Oklahoma doctors that a step in the right direction is being taken.

At any rate, Oklahoma Medicine is now making its contribution to a stiff fight against socialized medicine and the inroads of federal bureaucracy. This is a time for unity and progressive effort. The surgical care plan has great possibilities of a wide success. Those possibilities will be greater only through cooperation of the medical men who control the plan.

The proponents of the surgical care plan ask only a fair trial of the project. If it succeeds, a strong blow will be struck in behalf of the freedom of the American Medical Profession. If it fails, then further cooperation is needed in formulating and striking a second blow.

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