

The Medical Heritage Center

HOUSE CALL



VOL. 3 NO. 2

WINTER 2000

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lecture

The 2000 James V. Warren Medical Humanities Lecture featuring John B. West, M.D., Ph.D., is scheduled for February 24, 2000 from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. in the Medical Heritage Center. Dr. West will be presenting "The Physiological Challenge of Climbing Mt. Everest." There will also be a book signing for *High Life* by Dr. West. For more information, please contact Barbara Van Brimmer, 614-292-4891.



Conference

From the *American Association for the History of Medicine Newsletter* "Bodies of Literature/Histories of the Body" an interdisciplinary conference focusing on different interpretive strategies for studying the reproductive body in early modern culture, is being held April 21-22, 2000. Featured speakers will include David Cressy, Frances Dolan, John King and Linda Pollock. For more information contact: Caroline Bicks, Department of English, 421 Denney Hall, 164 W. 17th Ave, Columbus, OH 43210 (bicks.1@osu.edu) or David Cressy, Department of History, (cressy.3@osu.edu). Details are also available on the web at <http://www.osu.edu/conferences/blhb/index.html>

Meeting

The Ohio Academy of Medical History annual meeting will be on Saturday, April 15, 2000 in Cincinnati, hosted by the Cincinnati Medical Heritage Center. Details and registration information will be available in late February. For more information, contact:

Patsy Gerstner, Dittrick Medical History Center, Cleveland Medical Library Assoc./Cleveland Health Sciences Library, 11000 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Oh 44106-1714
Phone: (216) 368-6390
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Lecture

Also tentatively scheduled in the Medical Heritage Center is a lecture on April 27th to be presented by Michael Bliss, Ph.D., entitled "What's a Doctor? How William Osler Practiced Medicine." Dr. Bliss is a professor of history at the University of Toronto and his work *William Osler: A Life in Medicine* was recently published by the Oxford University Press.

Congratulations to Dr. Torrence Makley on the completion of the History of the Department of Ophthalmology. We hope others will continue to document the history of teaching and practicing in all the disciplines of the Health Sciences.

A CENTURY OF SANITARY FAIRS AND HEALTH EXPOSITIONS IN OHIO (1864-1964)

This article has been excerpted from the original paper presented in its entirety by Bruno Gebhard, M.D., Director, Cleveland Health Museum at the 1964 Annual Meeting of the Ohio Academy of Medical History in Granville, Ohio.

Ohio, like Virginia, proudly and rightly calls itself the Mother of Presidents, but in the field of national or international expositions she has been a stepmother. Neither a World's Fair nor a National Exposition took place in Ohio, but fame came to its major cities, Cincinnati and Cleveland, during Civil War days with its Sanitary Fairs in 1863-64. Sanitary Fairs were the money-raising ventures of local branches of the United States Sanitary Commission.

"They raised not less than 25 millions in money, goods and personal help, much of it coming from poor farmers, mechanics and clerks who could give but a dollar apiece."

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Members of the Board of Trustees of the Health Fair responsible for the over-all planning of the program are shown above at a recent meeting. (Left to right) *Dr. Robert J. Murphy*, Co-chairman, *Dr. Robert A. Heilman*, Pre-Fair Open House, *Dr. Norman O. Rothermich*, Publicity, Promotion and School Tours, *Dr. Donald J. Vincent* and *Dr. Robert M. Inglis*, Exhibit Review Committee, *Dr. Earl J. Baxter*, Chairman and *Dr. John N. Meagher*, Veterans Memorial Arrangements. Members not pictured are *Dr. James L. Henry*, Budget Committee, and *Dr. Robert H. Schoene*, Publicity, Promotion and School Tours. (Picture and caption from *The Columbus Academy of Medicine Bulletin*, March, 1959.)

Columbus, however, had nothing to show outside of the first exhibit on tuberculosis, sponsored by the State Board of Health at the Ohio State Fair in 1913. The next health fair educational activities came in 1959. From March 25 to 29 of that year, such a fair drew 110,000 visitors to the Veterans Memorial Building. The Columbus Academy of Medicine was the sponsor. Its 850 members assessed themselves \$15 per capita to make the Health Fair strictly non-commercial. *Earl H. Baxter, M.D.*, the Chairman of the Board and *Bill Webb*, the Executive Secretary, were the driving forces along with many physicians who served not only as committee members, but also as demonstrators at the exhibits.

A unique feature provided for the Columbus Hospital Federation was a hospital corridor showing 14 fully equipped hospital rooms. The

public response to the Health Fair was so great - thousands had to be turned away on the afternoon of the last Fair Day - that the Academy decided to look for a permanent home of health exhibits. This was realized five years later as a part of the Center of Science and Industry (COSI), a non-profit organization, "dedicated to the advancement of knowledge in the fields of Science, Industry, Health and History," which opened on March 28, 1964. The Center is sponsored by the Franklin County Historical Society. The old War Memorial Building on East Broad Street has been completely modernized and has now on its first floor what amounts to the second health museum in Ohio. Besides the Academy of Medicine, the Columbus Dental Society, the Central Ohio Heart Association, and the Columbus and Franklin County Tuberculosis Society are sponsors of many health exhibits which originated at the Cleveland Health Museum.

Historical societies have up to now paid little attention to the development of health and medicine, but one of the first in Ohio, not only to concern itself with the past, is the Stark County Historical Society. It opened in a new building in the summer of 1963, a Hall of Science and Industry, which includes a Health Education Center. It contains exhibits on the Miracle of Birth, on Nutrition, and as a special feature, the Vesalius Lady, a new addition of a transparent talking woman.

Health expositions and health fairs are not limited to Ohio. They are springing up all over the nation and have been the pacemakers for permanent health museums, of which the first one was incorporated in Cleveland in 1936 and opened to the public in 1940.

Dr. Gebhard was a distinguished leader in the development of health museums in Germany in the pre-Nazi era. He came to the United States to escape from Nazi Germany and settled in Cleveland where he founded the Cleveland Health Museum and was its director for many, many years. For more information about the Ohio Academy of Medical History see our ANNOUNCEMENTS section (p.1).

Recent Donations

The Medical Heritage Center thanks those listed for their recent support. If you are interested in making a donation to the Center, please contact Barbara Van Brimmer, 614.292.4891.

George Bell, M.D.: medical books • Rodger Lynch: physiology books, artifacts • Mrs. Gloria Warren: rare book collection • Nathan S. Hale, M. D.: large artifact collection • Howard R. Mitchell, M.D.: medical instruments • Albert W. Van Fossen M.D.: local hospital artifacts and postcards • William Saunders, M.D.: tuning forks (German), Stereoscope cards and viewer, books • Dale Dickens, M.D.: books, microscope • Tearle L. Meyer, M.D.: artifacts • R. Dennis Blose, M.D.: obstetric book collection • Charles Wooley, M.D.: medical history books • Dr. John C. Burnham: medical history books • Ronald Stuckey, Ph.D.: book collection • Jerome M. Rini, M.D.: Three framed photos taken by Gabriel Evancy • Killian C. Robinson, M.D.: cardiology artifacts • Tom Lewis, M.D.: books • Horace B. Davidson, Sr., M.D.: books • Catherine Anne Caseley Saylor: OSU student nursing uniform and cap • Paul Wherry: artifacts • COSI: artifacts from "The street of yesteryear" • Darrell Peters from the Department of Surgery: archives of Dr. George M. Curtis and miscellaneous memorabilia.

Monetary Donations: Donald F. Bowers, D.D.S. • Dr. and Mrs. Jerry Medaris Hardacre • Paul S. Metzger, M.D. • Alfred Stockum, M.D.

A Special Thank You

From the Columbus Medical Association Foundation *Community Checkup*, Vol. 2, Winter 2000



Dr. and Mrs. Paul S. Metzger have established a Charitable Remainder Trust that will leave its assets to the Columbus Medical Association Foundation to help ensure that the Medical Heritage Center will have funds to expand its archives and benefit the community.

The Metzgers, who make contributions to numerous charities, have included this gift planning vehicle in their estate plans to perpetuate their charitable giving after they are gone. The Charitable Remainder Trust they created will pay them an annual income for the remainder of their lives. After their death, the assets in the trust will be used in perpetuity by the CMA Foundation to support the efforts and activities of the Medical Heritage Center.

Dr. Metzger practiced internal medicine with the Central Ohio Medical Group and was with Nationwide Insurance Companies where he retired as Vice President and Chief Medical Director after a 34-year career. Dr. Metzger, a former Senior Franklin County Delegate to the Ohio State Medical Association, also served as President of the Academy of Medicine of Columbus and Franklin County (now the Columbus Medical Association) from 1979-1980. He and his wife Lee currently reside in Dublin, Ohio.

For more information regarding charitable planning opportunities through the Columbus Medical Association Foundation, please contact CMA Foundation Director of Development Weldon Milbourne at (614) 240-7420 or via e-mail at wmilbour@cmaf-ohio.org.

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Richard Zollinger passed away on September 13, 1999. He had been in to visit the Medical Heritage Center only days before and shared his memoirs with us. We are pleased to present this excerpt from his experiences as an intern.

'... All ambulance calls were an adventure in human relations. I recall an ambulance visit to the home of a lonely widower, the father of a large family of sons and daughters. It was during Christmas and he was intensely unhappy and depressed, because of a lack of attention from his relatives. A call to a daughter, informing her that he had lost his sight, caused a crowd to gather at the family home. We were quickly informed of the problem and were dispatched to the site. A thorough history and physical proved without a doubt that this was a case of hysteria. My driver quietly prepared a gauze saturated with ammonia which was suddenly placed under the nose of the sightless patient with the suggestion that usually one deep breath was adequate to restore sight in this condition and if necessary we would try a second inhalation. One breath was enough. He suddenly jumped from his chair and asked someone to take him to the window and to open the curtains. Dramatically and with gestures he loudly exclaimed, "I can see." We were proud of ourselves as we created a jubilant scene and were the recipients of thanks and praise from the pleased children. It was a good visit and we were hardly noticed as we returned to the ambulance for the trip home.'

From *A Surgeon's Journal* by Richard W. Zollinger, M.D.

Displays

We are pleased to recognize the Central Ohio Pediatric Society in the historical display gallery in the main hall of the Medical Heritage Center. A special "History of Columbus Children's Hospital" is located in three display cases on the south end of the floor. Photographs and artifacts such as rare infant feeders demonstrate medical care for children in Columbus from 1893 to the present.

At the north end of the hall is a revised display of early Columbus hospitals. This is arranged in chronological order beginning with the Poor House (1831) to Lincoln Memorial (1958).

If you have photographs of early Columbus hospitals that you would like to donate to our collection, please contact Barbara Van Brimmer, Curator.

The displays may be viewed Monday-Friday from 1-5 p.m. through April.

What's the value?

Many people who have medical artifacts and books ask about the value of their items. While the Medical Heritage Center staff are unable to appraise items, it is possible for individuals to find prices for comparable items.

For books, check out book dealers' prices. The Center keeps old catalogs from dealers and there are numerous web sites for used and out of print books, such as <http://www.abebooks.com>

For medical artifacts and instruments, auction sites often have an extensive selection listed for sale. One of the more popular sites is <http://www.ebay.com>

A tax planner or accountant may best be able to advise on the appraisal process if you are planning to donate items for a charitable tax deduction.



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