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NINETY YEARS AGO, DECEMBER 1918

From October 1918 through December 1919 the Rhode Island Medical Society suspended publication of the journal, because key staff members were serving in World War I.

FIFTY YEARS AGO, DECEMBER 1958

In "Panel Discussion: Prevention and Treatment of Cardiac Emergencies," J. Scott Butterworth, MD (New York University Postgraduate Medical School), James V. Warren, MD (Harvard Medical School), Allan Friedlich, MD (Harvard Medical School), and Louis Dexter, MD (Harvard Medical School) traded opinions.

Harold W. Williams, MD, in "The Clinician: In the Mode of Today's Thinking," opined on modes of analysis. "The clinician emphasizes. He recognizes overlooking and neglecting to do is a reality of his human nature."

Arthur B. Kern, MD, in "Treatment of Cutaneous Reactions to Antibiotics," noted that the key was "elimination of cause and secondarily treatment of the skin."

C. Aguilera Maruri, MD, in "Riehl's Melanoma of Emotional Origin," described the case of a 60 year-old woman who had had vitiligo since age 22. One winter day, she "opened the door to her brother who fell dead in her arms. The following night her face became red and swollen, with severe itching." A few days later, the erythema subsided, replaced by darkening of the skin.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, DECEMBER 1983

Charles P. Mosher, Administrative Director, Rhode Island Blood Center, contributed an Editorial: "Blood Use in Rhode Island." "Rhode Islanders use more blood transfusions per person than the residents of any other state." The author attributed this to the "complexity of cases" in the state's acute care hospitals. Since 1980, red cell transfusions increased 16%; red blood collections increased 36% (twice the national average, four times the rest of New England). The use of platelet concentrates and fresh frozen plasma increased 45%. The author noted: "A transfusion of blood or blood components is performed every 5 minutes in Rhode Island." The editorial emphasized the need for blood-donors.

On the President's Page, Charles P. Shoemaker, Jr, MD, discussed "Medicare: Usual, Customary and Reasonable and the Prospect of Medicare Assignment." Medical societies opposed mandatory assignment.

Erminio R. Cardi, MD, FACS, in "Choledochoscopy," explained "The flexible fiber optic choleoscope promises to reduce significantly the incidence of ...common duct stones."

David M. Barry, MD, FACS, in "Microsurgical Removal of Ruptured Lumbar Disks", cautioned: "While early excellent results appear likely to be permanent, long-term studies are needed."

Robert E. Newhouse, MD, John R. Stuart, MD, and Joanne Baldwin contributed "Blood Usage: Physicians' Order Provides for 4 Elective Surgical Procedures." An audit of hospitals in Rhode Island revealed a high incidence of unnecessary routine blood cross-matching "due to lack of awareness of the problem by surgeons as to procedures which do not commonly require transfusions."

