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NINETY YEARS AGO, JANUARY 1919

Because key staff at the Rhode Island Medical Society were serving in World War I, the Society suspended publication of its journal throughout 1919.

Fifty Years Ago, January 1959

Leo M. Davidoff, MD, Professor and Chair, Department of Surgery, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, delivered the 11th Dr. Isaac Gerber Oration: "Some Influences of the Intracranial Controls on the Roentgen Appearance of the Skull." The Journal reprinted the oration.

Shields Warren, MD, Professor of Pathology, Harvard Medical School, gave an address at the ceremony marking the cornerstone of the George Memorial Building [named for David E. George] at Rhode Island Hospital. The building was to focus on the treatment of cancer.

An Editorial, "Hospital Sepsis and the Staphylococcus," urged hospitals to adopt changes to the laundry, housekeeping, and engineering departments (for instance, "well-maintained air conditioning systems"). The Editorial urged frequent hand-washing, use of masks during surgery, and "gentle handling of tissues."

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS, JANUARY 1984

Wendy J. Smith, the managing editor, contributed an Editorial, "A New Look at the Fiscal Impact of the Malpractice Premium." The total bill for premiums of physicians, employees and hospitals came to an estimated \$3.5 billion in 1983; \$1.655 to 1.75 billion of that went for physicians' coverage. Those estimates did not include an estimated \$15.1 billion spent yearly for "defensive medicine." In Rhode Island, malpractice claims were pending against one-third of the physicians.

On the President's Page, Charles P. Shoemaker, Jr, MD, noted in "Physician Manpower in Rhode Island" that the Brown University Program in Medicine had decided to create 40 new full-time positions. "The decision...sent shock waves through the entire medical community," especially new physicians, "already struggling to survive in the face of the 'doctor glut.'" Third-party insurers feared an estimated cost for each new position of \$300,000 annually. Dr. Shoemaker urged further study, to document evidence of the hypothesized glut.

Henry M. Lichtman, MD, and Stanley D. Simon, MD, in "The Doctor John E. Conley Rehabilitation Center: A Community Resource," urged Rhode Island physicians to "utilize the facilities for the benefit of their patients." The General Assembly had established the center in 1943, expressly to care for injured workers covered by Workers Compensation Insurance – "the first state-operated rehabilitation facility in the country."

Kemi Nakabayashi, Sarah C. Aronson, Michael Siegel, William Q. Sturner, MD, and Stanley M. Aronson, MD, in "Traffic Fatalities in RI: Part I – Descriptive Epidemiology," recounted the basic statistics: traffic fatalities were responsible for 17.6% of all years of life lost before age 65, and 1.4% of all deaths in Rhode Island.

John L. Margolis, MD, Anthony V. Migliaccio, MD, FACS, and Anthony J. Migliaccio, MD, FACS, in "Gastric Gullet Obstruction produced by gallstones in the Duodenal Wall," discussed the case of a 77 year –old man. The authors noted that the condition was generally managed by cholecystectomy and gastrectomy.

