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NINETY YEARS AGO, FEBRUARY 1920

An Editorial, "The Workman's Compensation Act," explained that the worker was at a disadvantage: "The employer or his agents have the money to hire whom they please and as many as they please for the presentation of [the] case before the court."

A second Editorial, "Lest We Forget," urged colleagues to help the physician returning from the war to "gather up the ...tangled threads of his professional life. "Let us do it cheerfully and thankfully as a debt..."

A third Editorial marked the death of Sir William Osler, MD.

The Medical Advertising Bureau, Chicago, announced the return of the Rhode Island Medical Journal, which joined 27 other state medical journals. The year 1919 "with labor strikes and other difficulties," hindered production, but societies were recovering.

FIFTY YEARS AGO, FEBRUARY 1960

Wendell S. Muncie, MD, Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Johns Hopkins, delivered "Clinical Importance of Overt and Hidden Depression," before the Rhode Island Hospital House Officers' Association. "I'm inclined to use the term depression in a broad ...sense rather than as a diagnostic syndrome and to admit many varieties of it...Any one of these factors will influence the actual presentation of the misery of the illness." For instance, the term could even apply to criminals "suffering from chronic self-depreciation as an item of character structure."

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John C. Ham, MD in "Changing Needs in the Care of the Aging Individual," discussed chronic illness and patients without insurance. He suggested that the lack of insurance "...rarely places an insurmountable burden on the individual or his family although it sometimes looks to these people as if it would. If they can't pay they don't have to. Physicians treat anyway."

Bencil L. Schiff, MD, in "Autohemotherapy in the Treatment of Post-Herpetic Pain," discussed 11 patients, ages 45 to 79, seen over a two-year period with post-herpetic neuralgia. He withdrew 10 cc of whole blood from the antecubital vein, then injected the blood into the gluteal muscles. Injections were given every 3 days. Eight patients improved; no patients showed reactions.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, FEBRUARY 1985

Stanley M. Aronson, MD, and David Lewis, MD, contributed "Alcoholism and the Role of the Physician." For Rhode Island, the authors estimated that alcoholism cost \$139 million through lost employment and diminished productivity, and that \$93 million was linked directly to health care costs.

Paul Healey, MD, on the President's Page, discussed "Hospital Variations in RI." He cited a study from the Department of Health, which showed that a Pawtucket resident had a 7 times higher chance of having a tonsillectomy than a Barrington resident. Cesarean rates showed a similarly high variation. The Rhode Island Medical Society, with the Department of Health and the Hospital Association of Rhode Island, planned a conference on practice variations, with Dr. Wennberg from Dartmouth invited as the speaker.

Dwight B. Heath, PhD, in "Cultural and Social Aspects of Alcohol Use: General and Local Issues," noted that "social and cultural perspectives have made significant contributions to our understanding of drinking behaviors."

Roswell D. Johnson, MD, in "Tracking Alcoholism in Rhode Island: 1974-85," called the treatment programs and decreased consumption "hopeful signs for the future."

