



NINETY YEARS AGO, AUGUST 1920

Allen G. Rice, MD, from Springfield, MA, submitted the Fiske Fund Prize Dissertation, No. LIX, "Surgical Lessons of the Great War, 'Motto: Pecowsic.'" The Journal devoted the entire issue to the essay. Dr. Rice reported that initially "...the Medical departments functioned smoothly." The wounds were from "small sharp pointed high velocity bullets;" 20% of wounds were infected; and casualties were quickly evacuated, to be treated in base hospitals. That changed with the German advance and trench warfare. Physicians saw tetanus, gas gangrene, compound fractures, septic joints, face and jaw wounds, trench foot. Crucially, the wounded could not be quickly evacuated to base hospitals. Dr. Rice, however, reported progress: "...it is in the violently infected wounds which for the time being seemed hopeless that the greatest contribution to surgery is found." He cited the contributions of Drs. Carrel (technique) and Dakin (sodium hypochlorite).

FIFTY YEARS AGO, AUGUST 1960

Maxwell Finland, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School, and Physician-in-Chief, Boston City Hospital, contributed the 19th Charles C. Chapin Oration: "Antibacterial Agents. Uses and Abuses in Treatment and Prophylaxis." Dr. Finland praised the efficacy of antibiotics, but cautioned: "The physician must, like the man whose name we honor tonight, maintain a critical attitude towards claims of panaceas."

Dean F. Smiley, MD, Evanston, IL, Executive Director, Educational Council for Foreign Medical Graduates, presented "The Challenge Presented by the FMGs" at the 149th Annual Meeting of the RI Medical Society. In 1960, 2300 interns and 6000 residents were FMGs. Dr. Smiley called for an increased output of medical graduates from US medical schools, and measures to "safeguard FMGs from exploitation by dropping from the approved list, internships and residences that are almost entirely service-oriented rather than teaching-oriented."

William B. Coker, MD, and Arturo Longobardi, MD, presented "Eczema Vaccinatum," a case of eczema, after smallpox vaccination, in a 7-month old boy. He was treated with gamma globulin, stayed 6 weeks in the hospital.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, AUGUST 1985

Seebert Goldowsky, MD, contributed an editorial, "New Horizons in Cancer Research."

John K. Triedman, MD, Gary B. Witman, MD, Darwin O. Chee, ScD, and Leonard J. Triedman, MD, in "The Human Tumor Colony Forming Assay: Review and Clinical Applications," noted: "The method promises to provide significant laboratory information in determining appropriate chemotherapy."

Leo Uzych, JD, MPH, in "Disclosure of Information Concerning Chemical Hazards in RHI," noted that the RI law ("Hazardous Substances Right-To-Know Act, passed in 1983) may be affected adversely by new federal regulations.

A.A. Savastano, MD, in "Surgical Neurectomy for the Treatment of Resistant Painful Heel," declared: "The experimental procedure promises excellent results."

Kenneth W. Burchard, MD, and Kenneth E. Liffmann, MD, in "Hemoperitoneum associated with Gallbladder Rupture," thought that it "should be considered as a possibility in patients with acute cholecystitis whose conditions suddenly deteriorated."

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