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NINETY YEARS AGO, SEPTEMBER 1920

John M. Peters, MD, in the President's Annual Address, gave his impression of "Far Eastern countries which it was my privilege recently to visit." He explained: "I return home with a better understanding of the enormous amount of good done in spiritual, physical and material ways by the missionaries. They surely have been and are the leaders in introducing modern ideas of civilization in these countries." He had visited the medical mission at Canton (opened in 1835), and the Rockefeller-funded medical school and hospital being constructed in Peking. He noted the need to train Chinese citizens in medicine and nursing, praised the cleanliness of Japan, deplored the poverty of China, and praised the General Hospital in Manila (originally staffed by American service personnel, now under the control of the local medical school).

Hilary J. Connor, MD, in "Treatment of Syphilis," discussed the long-term status of 206 patients treated at Providence City Hospital in 1914. In 1919, the clinic staff examined 37 of those patients: 33 tested negative; 4, positive.

Discussing Dr. Connor's paper, Dr. Walter M. Brunet showed instructional films on syphilis, suggested smaller doses of salvarsan. Dr. Carl Sawyer noted a decrease in the number of patients he was seeing with syphilis, due to better hygiene and wartime education. Dr. Henry McCuster discussed neurosyphilis. At Butler he had treated 4 cases with a new treatment, the intracistern injection of salvarsanized serum.

The Editorial, "A Mental Clinic in Our Courts," urged Providence to follow the example of other cities and establish Mental Clinics in connection with courts. "A court psychiatrist will solve many a family problem, ... will send many individuals with a diseased nervous system to a hospital instead of a jail or reform school, and will compile valuable data that will...guide...future action of the courts."

FIFTY YEARS AGO, SEPTEMBER 1960

James T. Keenan, MD, contributed "Diagnosis and Management of Acute Small Bowel Obstruction," the prize essay for 1960 of the Providence Surgical Society.

Ezra Sharp, MD, and Alberto Mazzoleni, MD, in "Traumatic Myocarditis, A Case of Subepicardial Injury," described a 53-year old bookkeeper, caught between two men who were fighting. The patient suffered bruises on the shoulders, arms, thighs, face, finger. In the Emergency Room, there was no exam of the heart. The next morning, the patient was "anxious, pale and in distress." An EKG showed a t-wave inversion. After 23 days in the hospital, the patient was almost free of pain when at rest. Three months later, an EKG was normal, but pain persisted. There was a question of cardiac neurosis.

Bencil L. Schiff, MD, in "Carcinoma developing in Psoriatic Lesions," described a 77-year old man with basal and squamous carcinoma cells.

J. John Yashar, MD, John DeFeo, PhD, David DeFanti, MS, and Nathan Kiven, MD, in "Experimental Use of Cardioplegic Agents in Open-Heart Surgery," anesthetized dogs to test various agents. They reported that after 20-25 minutes of cardiac arrest, the dogs recovered.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, SEPTEMBER 1985

The Editor, Seebert J Goldowsky, MD, argued for prohibitions against smoking in hospital common areas, including conference rooms ("unless designated") in "No Smoking Progress".

Francis L. McNelis, MD, and Anthony J. Barone, MD, in "Metastatic Malignant Melanoma in the Mandible," noted the rare spread of this tumor in a 53-year old woman referred by her dentist.

Kenneth W. Burchard, MD, Joseph J. Lambiase, MD, Pardon R. Kenney, MD, and Gus J. Slotman, MD, called "Standard T-Tube Cholangiogram: A Safe Method of Cholangiography."

