



## NINETY YEARS AGO, DECEMBER, 1921

William Newton Hughes, AM, MD of the State Hospital for Mental Diseases studies the effects of ne month's luminal treatment of idiopathic epilepsy in 30 select cases. After introducing his range of subjects, Dr. Hughes reports that most patients respond to the treatment noting sleepiness, dizziness, and headaches and, with some cases, an increase in quarrelsome behavior. Overall, he reports a decrease in frequency and severity of seizures in the subjects compared to previous months and to the same month in the previous year, suggesting, too, a possibility that some of the positive effects could have been made moreso had it not been for the controlled three-grain dosage of the study group. He finishes by stating that no serious symptoms were observed that could be directly linked to the luminal.

Banice Feinberg, an intern at the State Hospital for Mental Diseases discusses psychometric methods for practicing physicians in terms of family practice, school, workplace, and in gauging mental disease. The author puts forward the benefits of testing, with some experience, as an additional diagnostic tool for physicians, and stresses the need to promote, in addition to physical hygiene, mental hygiene.

An editorial bemoans the presence of intellectual snobbery in the field of medicine—particularly such behavior as it comes from young interns recently of large hospitals who believe their knowledge of most recent advances in medical sciences makes it unnecessary for them to consult with the common general practitioner. The author emphasizes that the field of medicine is too broad for anyone to assume they can know the hundredth part of it all or that “his brother with less conspicuous advantages must be an ignoramus.”

William R. White, MD, celebrates the ninetieth birthday of William J. Burge with a 38-verse poem that begins: “Two most distinguished given names / Are borne by you, friend William James / And when we add the ‘Burge, M.D.’ / It’s surely ‘Sir to you,’ say we.”

## FIFTY YEARS AGO, DECEMBER, 1961

A summary report prepared by the Washington Office of the American Medical Association states in regard to radioactive fallout: “The Public Health Service said that radioactive fallout levels in the United States up until early November from the new series of Soviet nuclear explosions ‘do not warrant undue public concern’ nor initiation of any special public health actions.”

Robert L. Berger, MD, Joseph Doll, MD, and Orland F. Smith, MD, look at cases of congenital atresias of the gastrointestinal tract. While there have been vast improvements in anesthesia and fluid therapies in treating intestinal atresias, the overall outlook is still grim with the leading causes of death being malnutrition with dehydration and peritonitis.

An editorial points to a piece of news datelined Washington, DC, in a Dublin newspaper that states that “since October,

1948, United States medical examination centers have rejected more than a million men as physically unfit for military service as volunteers or national servicemen. In the past year they have been turning away more than 1,000 a month who would have passed if they had kept themselves in good physical shape. President Kennedy has urged schools to pay more attention to cultivating physical fitness.”

Five Rhode Island physicians were inducted as Fellows of the American College of Surgeons, entitling them to the designation FACS following their name. The recipients of this honor were: Stephen J. Hoye, MD, of Pawtucket, Thomas F. Head, MD, Rudolph W. Pearson, MD, and Mendell Robinson, MD of Providence, and James F. Martin, MD, of Westerly.

## TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, DECEMBER, 1986

Seebert Goldowsky, MD, revisits the topic of the Rhode Island Medical Society's library from the previous issue, noting the library's gradual decline while at the same time celebrating its richness. He quotes Richard J. Wolfe, a distinguished authority on the field of rare books and manuscripts, “In summation, I found that Rhode Island Medical Society owns a small but very fine historical collection, one which is on par with some universities conducting programs, including graduate programs, in medical history; that such a collection has been built up over a century-and-a-half reflects the collecting interests and tastes of some of Rhode Island's outstanding medical personalities—Usher Parsons and Charles V. Chapin, for example—and that such a collection could not be assembled again at this late date, and, therefore, great care should be exercised in reaching a decision regarding its future. I would like to see this collection remain in Rhode Island to serve as a resource for the teaching and study of medical history there.”

Starting in January 1987, the Rhode Island Medical Society will publish Check-Up, a new newsletter. Check-Up will replace the current RIMS newsletter and will not be part of the *Rhode Island Medical Journal*. The new publication is the result of extensive discussions of the RIMS Council concerning the communications mechanisms of the Society. The timeliness of the current newsletter has often been questioned. By separating it from the Journal, the production schedule will be improved.

