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Scientific feeding of the people in wartime

Much has been written in these anxious times concerning the conservation of food, and the necessity for planting a greatly increased acreage in this country in order to offset the losses occasioned by decreased planting in Europe, by submarine activities and by poor crops. More important than the conservation of food, as necessary as that is known to be, is the proper nutrition of the people. This can be accomplished by an intelligent supervision of the dietary, so that the greatest number of caloric units may be obtained from the smallest intake of food, and the elimination of expensive food and those of low caloric value. The greater necessity of proper nutrition for everyone in these times of unusual stress has been appreciated by local organizations of which the Housewives League is an example. In conjunction with other organizers working along similar lines, a series of demonstrations on the proper selection of a dietary are being planned at neighborhood clubs, factories and department stores. This is an endeavor in which physicians can be of especial help. It should be a patriotic duty for us to offer gratuitous advice on the proper feeding of the family in every home we visit. It should be a patriotic duty for us to offer gratuitous advice on the proper feeding of the family in every home we visit.

Women of the National Housewives League in a car with a sign "Use Perishables," in 1917. The Rhode Island branch of the organization was very active throughout the war.

Poster from the U.S. Department of Agriculture encouraging Americans to grow their own food to combat the shortages.
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To the physician who smokes a pipe: We suggest an unusually fine new blend—Country Doctor Pipe Mixture. Made by the same process as used in the manufacture of Philip Morris Cigarettes.
Miscellaneous

Hospital units for mental and nervous disorders
The National Committee for Mental Hygiene has created a subcommittee on furnishing hospital units for nervous and mental disorders to the United States government; the project has been approved by Surgeon General W.C. Gorgas of the US Army.

This subcommittee is authorized to secure the services of alienists and neurologists to be commissioned in the Officer Reserve Corps, medical section, to serve in the neuropsychiatric units which are to be attached to the base and other hospitals of the military services of the United States. Further information will be given, and application forms sent to physicians qualified in this branch of medicine, on application by letter or in person to the National Committee for Mental Hygiene, 50 Union Sq., New York City.

Newport Medical Society
A meeting was held May 17, 1917 at 8:30 PM at the Historical Society building. Dr. H.G. Giddings of the Boston City Hospital spoke on drug store prescribing in venereal diseases.

Mary E Baldwin, MD, secretary

Off to war
Dr. Murray S. Danforth has left for Washington to join the orthopedic unit which is to sail to Europe for service under the British government.

Returned from war
Dr. Herman C. Pitts has recently returned from service in France, where he was one of the surgical staff of the Harvard unit.

St. Joseph’s Hospital
The graduating exercises of the Training School for Nurses were held on the evening of May 22 at the Eloise, Franklin Street. The class consists of nine nurses. Dr. Arthur H. Harrington of the State Hospital for the Insane delivered the graduation address.

Providence City Hospital
Arrangements have been made with the naval authorities at Newport whereby cases of contagious diseases, including tuberculosis, will be cared for in the City Hospital if the necessity arises.

St. Joseph’s Hospital graduated nine nurses on May 22, 1917. Many expressed an interest in participating in the war effort.

Necrology
Dr. Henry W. Burnett, widely known as a specialist in children’s diseases, died at his home, 167 Lloyd Ave., May 7, 1917. Dr. Burnett was born in New York City in 1873. He graduated from Long Island College Hospital and later attended King’s County Hospital and Harvard Graduate School of Medicine.

He served as resident physician in Butler Hospital, physician in charge of children’s diseases in Rhode Island Hospital, the North End Dispensary, and the St. Vincent DePaul Infant Asylum.

Dr. Burnett was a member of the board of managers of the Providence District Nursing Association, chairman of Baby Welfare committee, Rhode Island Medical Society, Providence Medical Association, American Medical Association, Association of Military Surgeons and the New England Pediatric Society.

He was formerly a captain in the Medical Corps, Rhode Island National Guard, and was recently appointed assistant surgeon general of the state. He leaves a widow, mother, two brothers and two children.
In 1917, charts that accompanied clinical articles looked like this. These appeared in the June 1917 issue of the *Rhode Island Medical Journal* with “A Study of Cardiorenal Types” by H.P. Lovewell, MD, of Providence. The review was based on 250 cases from a course in medicine and pathology at the Massachusetts General Hospital, using a classification of Dr. R. Cabot, from a paper read before the AMA in 1914. Dr. Cabot found that 93% of the “failing hearts” fell into four groups: rheumatic, arteriosclerotic, nephritic, and syphilitic. Of the 250 cases, Dr. Lovewell would put 70 under these four types.
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