

### NINETY YEARS AGO, APRIL 1919

Because key Medical Society members staff were serving in World War I, the Society suspended publication of the Journal through 1919.

### FIFTY YEARS AGO, APRIL 1959

Samuel D. Clark, MD, Medical Officer, Radioactivity Center, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, spoke at the Providence Medical Society. The Journal reprinted his talk, "The Watches That Won't Run Down: Results of Investigations of Victims of Radium Poisoning After an Interval of 30 Years." In 1924, a New York dentist, Theodore Blum, had written one of the first articles on the indications of the toxicity of radium, in the *Journal of the American Dental Association*. In 1933 Robly D. Evans discussed 6 laboratory tests for determining radium poisoning in the *American Journal of Public Health*. In 1925 Dr. Harrison Martland, the medical examiner of Newark, linked radium to the deaths of painters of luminous dials. Decades later, scientists were searching for former dial painters and their co-workers. The author noted, "There may be surprisingly marked x-ray changes without any symptoms whatsoever." The author requested help from physicians in locating "laboratory case-material."

Lt. Saverio Caputi, JR, MC, USNR, Chief, Department of Dermatology, US Naval Hospital, Newport, submitted "Histopathological Changes Induced by the Nitrogen Mustards in the Lymphomas: A Brief Review of the Literature."

William B. O'Brien, MD, William V. Vindzberg, MD, and Gladys Longo, in "Alcohol and Tuberculosis: A Story of 200 Patients Admitted to the Dr. U.E.Zambrano Memorial Hospital, Wallum Lake," discussed the patients admitted between August 1954 through September 1955. Most (185) had tuberculosis. The authors concluded: "...the quantity of alcohol consumed does not have much effect on the treatment of TB; but alcohol consumers do suffer from malnutrition, poor general health, bad hygiene, disability...The only important effect is...that alcohol does interfere with the normal course of treatment of the patients, and furthermore such a patient becomes a real health menace when he is turned loose into the community."

Jose M. Ramos, MD, in "The Value of Phenylbutazone in generalized Osteoarthritis," discussed 150 cases, given 300 mgm daily for 5 days, then 200 mgm for 3 days. "In no instance were toxic reactions noted..." The author called it "one of the most useful and important anti-rheumatic drugs."

Milton Hodosh, DMD, in "A New Concept in Implant Dentistry," discussed "third teeth," "artificially placed, and cosmetically as well as physiologically functional."

### TWENTY-FIVE YEARS, APRIL 1984

An Editorial, "Take Care of Yourself," recounted statistics from a CDC study; e.g., 60% of respondents didn't use seat belts, 31% smoked cigarettes, 20% were acute drinkers; 13% led sedentary lifestyles. A 1980 survey conducted by SEARCH and the RI Department of Health echoed the findings: 82% of Rhode Islanders didn't use seat belts, 35% smoked, 59% of men and 47% of women led sedentary lives.

On the President's Page, Charles P. Shoemaker, Jr, MD, discussed "Non-Physician Health Care Professionals: A More Systematic Approach is Needed." In 1984 Rhode Island optometrists were seeking the General Assembly's permission to prescribe drugs. In 37 states, including RI, optometrists could use "diagnostic agents" in their practices. Chiropractors and physician assistants were also attempting "to extend their practice privileges by legislative fiat." Dr. Shoemaker urged the legislature to establish a commission to study these professionals, rather than review each bill piecemeal.

In "Depression Following Cranial Radiation for Brain Tumor," Richard J. Goldberg, MD, Alan D. Steinfeld, MD, and Robert M. Tull, PhD, discussed the case of a 40 year-old man. The authors concluded: "Impaired function appeared to be due to tumor, irradiation therapy or both."

As part of a Brown University honors program at Brown University, Kemi Nakabayashi, Sarah C. Aronson, Michael Siegel, William Q. Sturmer, MD, and Stanley M. Aronson, MD, analyzed "Traffic Fatalities in RI. Part II. The Timing of Accidents and the Role of Marital Status, Alcohol and Psychoactive Drugs." Most accidents occurred on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays; the fewest, on Tuesdays. The worst months were March, April, and May.

Srecko Pogacar, MD, and Roger S. Williams, MD, in "Alzheimer's Disease Presenting as Slowly Progressive Aphasia," discussed a 56 year-old man whose aphasia had progressed for a year, with no cognitive symptoms. "This may be the first recorded case of this sequence."

