

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, MAY 1959

The Journal printed the talks of several presenters at the Scientific Session of the American Heart Association.

Claude S. Beck, MD, Professor of Cardiovascular Surgery, Western Reserve University, discussed "The Treatment of Coronary Heart Disease." He concluded: "Anginal pain is most effectively treated by surgical operation. This operation provides the only protection against ventricular fibrillation occurring in hearts that structurally are too good to die."

David Gelfand, MD, Assistant Professor of Cardiology, University of Pennsylvania, discussed "Cardiacs Can Work." Dr. Gelfand, Director of the Cardiac Classification Unit in Philadelphia, discussed those units, comprised of a cardiologist, psychiatrist, medical social worker, and vocational counselor. From February 1952 to December 1956, 616 patients were referred to the Philadelphia unit, 446 by industry. Most (86.2%) were working full or part-time, or on sick leave from full-time jobs. The Unit found that 15.8% of patients did not have heart disease.

W. Sterling Edwards, MD, Associate Professor of Surgery, Medical College of Alabama, discussed "Recent Advances in Arterial Surgery."

The Journal printed an abstract from "Puerperal Fever as a Private Pestilence," by Oliver Wendell Holmes, MD, Parkman Professor of Anatomy and Physiology, Harvard University. The Rhode Island Medical Library owned a copy of the essay. Dr. Holmes advised: "The disease known as puerperal fever is so far contagious as to be frequently carried from patient to patient by physicians and nurses."

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, MAY 1984

An Editorial, "The Medicare Assignment Option: The Debate Intensifies," criticized the bill, recently introduced in Congress by House Aging Committee Chairman Edward Roybal (D-CA), that would bar physicians from charging the difference between Medicare rates and "usual, customary charges" and that would require hospitals to deny staff privileges to physicians who refused Medicare assignment. The Editorial complained that Congress was renegeing on a promise to seniors, to take care of their medical expenses, and to physicians, to pay customary rates. Rates of assignment ranged from 82% in Rhode Island to 19% in Wyoming.

Michael J. Follick, PhD, Edward W. Abergner, PhD, David K. Ahern, PhD, and James R. McCartney, MD, in "The Chronic Low Back Pain Syndrome: Identification and Management," noted that "Appropriate treatment should lead to better services, improved health status, and reduction in health care costs."

Michael Somers ('84, Program in Medicine, Brown) and Arthur I. Geltzer, MD, in "The Use of Electroretinograms (ERG) in Diagnosing Retinitis Pigmentosa and Related Visual Disorders," declared the test "dependable." "...[It] gives valuable information within the limits of its capability." The authors had studied the impact of the unit, purchased by the Rhode Island Hospital Guild for \$5,000. Nine men and 14 women, ages from 9 years to 80 years, with positive clinical symptoms, positive funduscopic findings, positive family history, and, in 2 cases, prognosis of a vitrectomy, participated.

Richard M. Cowett, MD, and Don B. Singer, MD, in "Clinicopathological Conference: Multiple Abnormalities in a Preterm Infant with Growth Retardation," traced the problem to Trisomy 18.

Fred Brosco ('84 Program in Medicine, Brown) and Tom J. Wachtel, MD, contributed "A Case of Amenorrhea and Decreased Vision." They concluded: "Apparently unrelated symptoms may be manifestations of the same disease process." The patient, a 22 year-old obese woman, had *pseudotumor cerebri*.

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