

## NINETY YEARS AGO, JULY, 1922

P.E. Truesdale opens this issue with an article cancer of the stomach with a report of end results in 65 cases. Noting that stomach cancer is often more insidious than other forms of cancer, detection is crucial—particularly in getting patients to accept operations early. Detection gets easier as patient awareness of symptoms grow. The situation is far from perfect, however. The problem isn't so much surgery, but lateness—lateness in warnings, recognition and in timing of operation.

Roy Blosser, MD, discusses diagnosing diseases of the scalp. While common, the medical profession as a whole tends to not give it much attention. Consequently, patients who suffer from these diseases usually drift around from one to another of the self-constituted hair specialists, beauty parlors, barber shops, and such. The author goes on to outline various conditions from hair loss to psoriasis of the scalp, neurodermatitis, and sycosis barbae.

Accepting the presidency of the Rhode Island Medical Society, Frank E. Peckham, MD, addresses the membership. Among his remarks, he states: "To me the profession of medicine is a big challenge, composed of very many smaller of sub-challenges. The men making up this grand profession are men of varying ability. As each man develops his particular bent, he naturally fits in somewhere, because there are so many avenues in which he can accept the challenge which most appeals to his personal characteristics."

An editorial observes that with the recent opening of the Jane Frances Brown Building, Rhode Island Hospital has been placed among the first in the eastern United States in the way of modern hospital facilities. It is also observed that the obstetrical ward, an entirely new departure of the hospital, lends added attractiveness to the general hospital facilities.

## FIFTY YEARS AGO, JULY, 1962

In the Caleb Fiske Prize Essay for 1961, Lester L. Vargas, MD, discusses the current status of cardiac surgery. In the wrap-up, the author states: "Clinical cardiac surgery, only a little more than twenty years old in America, has progressed to include operations which once seemed impossible. Its present status has been reached through the development of physiological concepts and apparatus which have made open-heart surgery a reality. Hypothermia induced with a heat exchange has added to the safety of extracorporeal circulation. Cardiac arrest and profound hypothermia provide a relatively dry, motionless, operative field. Under these optimum operating conditions, it is now technically possible to correct a number of complex intracardiac lesions. This progress has been so rapid that merely keeping up with events has been likened to the dilemma of the Red Queen in Alice's dream who had to run as fast as she could only to stay in the same place."

Boating and boating hazards are addressed in a editorial that makes reference to Coast Guard guidelines, but finishes with a sensible call to common sense. Don't overload; be sure there is a life preserver for everyone aboard; don't overlook an adequate first aid kit; and don't venture off shore unless you know how to plot a course and have the latest weather information. A little courtesy and common sense will keep boating accidents to a minimum.

Continuing with a theme on summer pastimes, another editorial looks at swimming pools. After waxing poetic on the idyllic aspects of swimming pools, the topic turns toward such hazards as staphylococcus infections, impetigo, otitis media, broken necks, and drowning. What steps can be taken? The RIDOH will furnish a copy of their swimming pool rules and regulations upon request, and the Division of Sanitation will advise anyone with a swimming pool on the best methods for maintaining it in a sanitary condition. In addition, it's suggested that one know the swimming pool being used, and who maintains it. Gate locks, life-saving rings, reaching poles and safe walkways are also mentioned. Likewise, a safe pool is a clean pool.

In an article by John B. Lawlor, MD, Roger G. Berard, MD, and Ernest K. Landsteiner, MD, entitled "Acute Renal Failure Complicating Salicylate Intoxication: Role of the Artificial Kidney," the authors discuss various case report related to the title and conclude: "Severe acute salicylate poisoning responds favorably to early dialysis with the artificial kidney. Subsequent renal failure caused by the nephrotoxic effect of salicylates, although it occurs but rarely, is a grave complication with a poor prognosis. A case of acute salicylism complicated by oliguric renal failure with complete recovery is therefore reported."

## TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, JULY, 1987

Jacques G. Susset, MD, discusses the challenge of assessing and treating female incontinence and stresses the need for a complete urodynamic evaluation preceding intervention. "A physio-pathological assessment of the factors involved in female incontinence is now possible through a thorough urodynamic evaluation which appears to us essential for the understanding of the underlying condition. Such an approach should increase the accuracy in the choice of treatment. This in turn leads to improvement of the therapeutic results and many times to conservative management."

In light of the Challenger space shuttle disaster, Shawn Cooper, PhD, MPH, suggests that a strategy should be developed for dealing with children and traumatic national events. He reports on a survey sent to pediatricians which supported the idea for trauma counseling both through families and in schools. The survey "implies that the medical community, particularly that part of it which deals with children, may need to develop a general strategy for responding to adverse reactions to traumatic national events, however rare they may be."