

THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, NEW YORK CITY

THE fiftieth anniversary of Memorial Hospital, which treats cancer and allied diseases, was celebrated on May 24 and 25. On the evening of May 24 there was a scientific meeting on cancer at the New York Academy of Medicine and on Friday there was a series of round-table scientific discussions at the hospital, followed by a dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria.

At the academy meeting Dr. John A. Hartwell, director of the academy, spoke on "The Place of a Cancer Institute in Medical Organization." Dr. Robert Greenough, president of the American College of Surgeons, described the "Organization of Cancer Service in General Hospitals."

Dr. C. C. Little, managing director of the American Society for the Control of Cancer, spoke on "Heredity in Cancer," and Dr. E. C. Dodds, director of the Courtauld Institute of Biochemistry of Middlesex Hospital, London, spoke on "Cancerigenic Agents."

A dinner was given in the evening of May 25 at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, which was attended by about 400 friends and staff members of the hospital, at which a letter of congratulation from President Roosevelt was read by Harry Pelham Robbins, president of the board of managers, who presided.

The letter follows:

The White House, May 11, 1934.

I shall be grateful if you will express to those who gather to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Memorial Hospital my cordial greetings and congratulations on the attainment of this milestone.

This institution is nationally notable not only because it was the first special hospital of its kind in the United States but because its human clinical research and service in the field of cancer and allied diseases have made the whole country its debtor. Its consistent effort to advance the knowledge and control of a disease which stands second in the list of causes of death renders the work of the hospital of outstanding importance.

I wish for the institution and all those associated with it the fullest fruition of their hopes and efforts in the continuance of this indispensable service.

Speakers at the dinner were Dr. James Ewing, chairman of the medical board of Memorial Hospital; Dr. E. C. Dodds, director of the Courtauld Institute of Biochemistry of Middlesex Hospital, London; Dr. Livingston Farrand, president of Cornell University; Mrs. Robert G. Mead, of the New York City Cancer Committee; Dr. Dean Lewis, president of the American Medical Association, and Dr. Clarence C. Little, executive secretary of the American Society for the Control of Cancer.

The cornerstone of Memorial Hospital, then the

New York Cancer Hospital, was laid May 17, 1884, after plans had been drafted February 7 at the residence of Mrs. Elizabeth Hamilton Cullum, a granddaughter of Alexander Hamilton, who was associated in the hospital's founding with Mr. and Mrs. John Jacob Astor. The first building erected was the Astor Pavilion. The hospital was opened December 6, 1887.

In 1912 James Douglas, then president of the Phelps Dodge Corporation, gave \$100,000 for the endowment of twenty beds for clinical research and the equipment for an x-ray plant and clinical laboratory, which was opened in 1917. He also gave three and a half grams of radium for the study of radium treatment of cancer. Dr. Ewing was appointed president of the medical board in 1913, and seven years later a social service department was established by Miss Gertrude Hill and Burton J. Lee.

Edwin Gould gave \$50,000 in 1926 for erection of a new x-ray building, and Edward S. Harkness at the same time gave \$250,000 for the purchase of radium. A year later John D. Rockefeller, Jr., made the first of his annual \$60,000 contributions for research and the establishment of six clinical fellowships.

THE GENERAL SESSIONS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION AT BERKELEY

THE general sessions of the summer meeting at Berkeley, which will be held from June 18 to 23, constitute a series of marked interest. The first evening, Monday, will be occupied by the retiring address of the president of the Pacific Coast Division of the association, Dr. Joel H. Hildebrand. Dr. Hildebrand has taken for his subject "The Liquid State."

Tuesday evening the executive committee decided to devote to a lecture under the terms of the Hector E. Maiben Lectureship. This was established in 1933 under the terms of the bequest made by the late Hector E. Maiben. Mr. Maiben became a sustaining member of the association in 1921. Ten years later when his will was filed it was found that he had bequeathed all his property, some \$40,000, to the association. After careful consideration the executive committee voted to establish with this fund an annual lectureship to deal authoritatively with some subject of great scientific interest, to be addressed to men and women interested in the advance of science in general rather than to special workers in the field covered by the lecture. The first Maiben lecture was given at the Atlantic City meeting by Dr. Henry Norris Russell, of Princeton University, who spoke on "The Constitution of the Stars." The second Maiben lecture was given at Boston by the late Dr. William Morris Davis, who spoke on "The Faith of Reverent Science."

By the terms of establishment a Maiben Lecture is to be given at each annual meeting. In view of the