

SCIENCE

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ADDRESSES IN HONOR OF DEAN EDSALL¹

HARVARD IN MEDICAL EDUCATION

By Dr. WALTER A. JESSUP

PRESIDENT, THE CARNEGIE FOUNDATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF TEACHING

DISEASE is an ancient and ever-present enemy of man. From the beginning of history we have reports of man's struggle against disease. In the attempt to understand disease and its cause and cure, man has dabbled in every known field from religion to sociology, from astrology to chemistry, from superstition to science. The history of primitive peoples abounds in all sorts of queer stories of resort to the magic of the medicine man, of almost every conceivable explanation of the cause and cure of sickness. Ponce de Leon was neither the first nor the last seeker after youth. His prototype has existed in every age and generation. The prevailing traditions, mores, faiths, have been constantly reflected in man's attitude toward disease and its cure. This is true not alone for the work of the modern scientific physician but likewise for the work of ancient Greeks—Hippocrates and Galen. In this scientific age it is hard for us to reconcile the fact that at the University of Salerno, which began to flourish in the eleventh century, medicine, astrology

and mathematics were the leading disciplines. For that day there was nothing incongruous in pairing astrology and medicine. In the days of scholasticism at Bologna the study of medicine was made a subject

¹ Read at a meeting in Boston, Dr. Walter B. Cannon presiding, in honor of Dr. David L. Edsall upon his retirement as dean of the Harvard Medical School and School of Public Health, October 23, 1935.

Before introducing the speakers Dr. Cannon said: "We are gathered here this afternoon to recall and evaluate some of the services which our friend Dr. Edsall has performed for medicine. I say some of the services because he has had so varying a career, he has contributed to medicine in so many different ways, that a satisfactorily complete estimate of all he has done would be impossible in a short afternoon meeting.

"More than a quarter of a century ago his knowledge of pediatrics was recognized by his election as president of the American Pediatric Society, and by his being offered the chair of pediatrics at Johns Hopkins and later at the University of Texas. For some time he was professor of therapeutics and pharmacology at the University of Pennsylvania. Later he was professor of preventive medicine at Washington University, St. Louis. For eleven years he was Jackson professor of clinical medicine at Harvard and during that time he inspired many young

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