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E. D. MERRILL

POSTGRADUATE COURSE IN INDUSTRIAL MEDICINE AT THE LONG ISLAND COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

THE industrial health problem, measured by the soaring curve of accidents and absenteeism due to illness, appears to be most critical. It is well known that industrial illnesses and accidents are rising, at a rate which in some states is outrunning the rise in employment. Sound industrial health measures more widely applied should help to arrest this trend, conserve manpower and thus aid the war effort. These figures have been cited to indicate the scope and increasing gravity of the situation.

By the end of 1942 twenty million Americans will be at work in war plants—almost three times as many as were at work in such plants on January 1. Sixty million persons will have employment in all types of gainful occupation by the end of 1943. One third of these sixty million will be women, many of whom are new to industrial work. The rest will be men, most of whom are either too old, too young or who are physically unfit for service.

If the health problem in industry is critical now, consider what it will be when these millions of workers, most of whom are poor health risks and inexperienced in industrial work, are in the factories. In the last analysis industrial health is a medical problem. It is to the plant physician, be he full-time, part-time or "on call," that management must look in solving its health problems. Upon the medical profession rests the responsibility for safeguarding industrial health. Medical schools share in that responsibility, for they are one of the media through which training for medical service in industry is carried on.

The supply of physicians with industrial medical training is limited. Yet many more physicians with a grounding in industrial health are needed to serve in new and expanded war plants and in civilian industry and service. Many physicians now serving industry part-time or "on call" will be needed for full-time service, possibly in more than one plant.

Granting all this, the college had the problem of deciding on the type of course it would offer. It appeared that at least two conditions should be met: (1) the course should be so arranged that physicians within commuting distance could enroll and still carry on their practise; (2) the course should be organized to meet the requirements for grounding in the fundamentals of the subject that would fit the needs both of physicians with some experience in industrial medical practise and physicians with little or none.

In its planning the college had the benefit of the advice of a number of industrial physicians, notably Dr. Cassius H. Watson, medical director of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, and Dr. John J. Wittmer, medical and personnel director of the Consolidated Edison Company, both of them alumni of the college. The principle they stressed from the start was: Keep it practical.

As it was finally developed, the course, which will be given from November 2 to 13, consists of two weeks of afternoon and evening lectures with morning clinics in the medical departments of industrial concerns. The material for the first week will cover the organization and operation of typical medical departments, physical examinations, study of absenteeism and a review of the human factors in industrial medical work. In the second week lectures and seminars on accidents and their prevention, industrial toxicology, traumatic surgery and nutrition have been scheduled. It was hoped that these topics would provide orientation in the main problems of industrial medicine for the physician new to this special type of practise and a new approach to some of these problems on the part of the physician with some experience in industrial practise.

A series of nine morning clinics, most of them to be held in medical departments of industrial concerns, have been arranged with the object of demonstrating to the students the subjects covered by the lectures of the previous day. A plan of internships of a month's duration in industry immediately following the course was devised for physicians who desire further training and who could be placed. Thirty-nine industrial physicians and experts in related fields such as compensation insurance will lecture in the afternoon and evening sessions. Twenty-three of these are from the metropolitan New York area and sixteen from other parts of the east.

The fee for the course is $50, $10 of which is payable in advance. Students may apply for admission for a part of the course, although they must elect to attend at least two full days of afternoon and evening lectures. The "per diem" charge is $5. The number of full-time students will be limited to fifty.

ALFRED H. CRAWFORD

THE VAUGHAN RESEARCH AWARDS IN HORTICULTURE

AWARDS of $500 each are to be provided by the American Society for Horticultural Science for the two outstanding papers of the year presented before the society. These awards are made possible through the generosity of L. H. Vaughan, of the Vaughan's Seed Stores of Chicago. They will be known as the Vaughan Research Awards in Horticulture. One award is to be made in the field of flori-

culture and one in vegetable crops. The awards for 1942 will be made at the winter meeting of the society in New York City which will be held from December 29 to 31, and will be selected from the papers which have been presented before the society during 1942.

Preference will be given to papers that present new discoveries in these fields, showing promise of commercial importance or practical application. Preference will also be given to papers by authors under thirty-five years of age. The papers will be judged on the basis of originality, soundness, accuracy, clearness and conciseness of presentation, and on the value of the work, especially in its practical applications.

The American Society for Horticultural Science was organized in 1903 to promote the science of horticulture. Its membership is composed of horticulturists and technical workers in horticulture in the United States, Canada, Mexico and abroad. Each year in connection with the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science it holds a three-day program at which timely horticultural topics on fruits, vegetable crops, ornamental horticulture, floriculture, genetics, plant physiology and biochemistry are presented and discussed. In addition, round table discussions are held on such horticultural topics as varieties, educational methods, extension methods, nomenclature, research technic and special crops. Joint meetings are held with related science groups, such as phytopathology, genetics, soil science and botany.

In addition to the annual meeting, sectional meetings are held each year on the Pacific Coast, in the South and in the Great Plains area. The papers and discussions from these meetings are published by the society in two bound volumes of "Proceedings" amounting to approximately 1,200 pages each year. Dr. H. B. Tukey, Geneva, N. Y., is secretary of the society.

THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

PROFESSOR LESLIE C. DUNN, executive officer of the department of zoology of Columbia University, announces that the department will celebrate on October 16 and 17 the fiftieth anniversary of its founding.

Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, president of the university, will be the principal speaker at a dinner to be held in the Men's Faculty Club on Friday evening, October 16. Addresses tracing the progress of the department over half a century will be delivered by distinguished zoologists from other institutions who have received the Ph.D. degree at Columbia. Dr. James H. McGregor, recently retired from active service in the department to become professor emeritus, will preside.

Dr. Butler will speak on the origins of the department; Albert P. Matthews, professor emeritus of biochemistry at the University of Cincinnati, will review its early history with emphasis on the achievements of Professor Edmund B. Wilson in experimental embryology and cytology; Dr. Charles Packard, director of the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, Mass., who received his Ph.D. in the department in 1914, will deal with the work of the department during his day; the development of the new science of genetics under Dr. Thomas H. Morgan and Dr. Edmund B. Wilson will be described by Dr. Curt Stern, head of the department of biology at the University of Rochester and formerly fellow of the International Education Board at Columbia; Dr. Alfred S. Romer, professor of zoology at Harvard University, will stress the connections of the department with the American Museum of Natural History, where Professor Henry Fairfield Osborn, paleontologist and first chairman of the department, was head of the division of mammalian paleontology, and Professor William K. Gregory now serves as curator of comparative anatomy and ichthyology. Dr. Meryl Rose, instructor in biology at Smith College, who received his Ph.D. at Columbia in 1940, will speak as a representative of his own day in the department.

A statement issued by Professor Dunn reads:

The work of the department from its inception in 1892 has centered in the study of evolution, heredity and the development and organization of the living cell and body.

The first chairman of the department, Professor Osborn, played a leading part in the investigation of the succession of animals of the past through their fossil remains. His associate, Bashford Dean, was a leading student of the fossil fishes and founder and first director of the Biological Station at Cold Spring Harbor.

Professor McGregor devoted himself to the study of the ancestry of men, and his reconstructions of primitive man based on fragmentary skeletal remains are familiar to most biologists. Henry E. Crampton, a member of the department since 1893, investigated the land snails of some of the Pacific Islands to confirm Darwin's contention that specific differences originate by the accumulation of individual differences.

Under the leadership of Thomas H. Morgan and Edmund B. Wilson, with the cooperation of Alfred H. Sturtevant, Hermann J. Muller, Calvin B. Bridges and others, the mechanism of Mendelian heredity was elucidated in detail, and the chromosome theory of heredity, or, as Morgan later called it, the theory of the gene, was developed at Columbia between 1910 and 1928.

Protozoology, the study of one-celled animals, had its American beginnings and underwent its chief development in this department, under the leadership of Gary N. Calkins.

The association of cytology and genetics continued after Wilson had retired, and Morgan had resigned to become director of the new laboratories at California In-