

1844-1994



Our

Medical

Heritage

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Our Medical Heritage



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Lancaster City & County Medical Society

Section 1

The History of the Lancaster City & County Medical Society



LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA, 1844

Chapter 5
The Ninetieth Year of the
Lancaster City & County Medical Society
Anniversary address delivered by Dr. Elmer T. Prizer
February 7, 1934

Mr. Toastmaster, Honorable James H. Ross, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen:

I have the honor of presenting to you this evening a brief outline of the history of the Lancaster City and County Medical Society on its ninetieth birthday. The members of the banquet committee in their enthusiasm have forgotten a vital requisite of a historian when they tagged me. A historian should be one well seasoned by age and experience, in which I fail to measure. However, the Committee has done wisely in guiding you into the halls of the Babylonian Gastronomical Art Exhibit and invited you to repose in that state of mellowness by a generous indulgence.

Lancaster City and County Medical Society is ninety years old and yet in its infancy. Ninety years ago in 1844, this country was recovering from the depression of 1837, much the same as this one, with bank failures and fortunes disappearing. In 1842, the cotton boom burst intensified the depression, and the people were in much the same state of uncertainty as to the future as that in which we find ourselves today. Lancaster City had at that time a population of 9,000. The mayor of the city was the Honorable Michael Carpenter. He was a serious-minded man, short of stature and sparingly built. He served the city well for eight years as its mayor; and since he was a good Democrat, the Lord called him home before the infirmities of old age could afflict him.

When we enter the portals of the storehouse of history, we approach with respect and dignity. We find there human emotions and human events recorded. And the medical gentlemen who lived down through the years since the Society's organization and the makers of history of this society have been men who have struggled to maintain the high standards of the profession, the advancement of medical science, and to promote good fellowship. Some have been in the front ranks bearing the standards of the profession and have added luster and dignity to its fair name, while others have lagged behind or tarnished its name; and a few have brought shame upon themselves and reproach from their associates.

One hundred and eleven years ago today, February 7, 1823, at 11:00 A.M. this society was conceived in the presence of a few medical gentlemen at Strasburg, of Lancaster County, for the purpose of the advancement of

medical science, for self-protection, and to promote harmony in the profession. Dr. Francis Burrowes was the chairman, and Dr. William Forman was secretary. A committee of seven; namely, Drs. Humes, Dinger, Reigy, Boulden, Handford, Davis and Forman, was appointed to draft bylaws and to meet March 15, at 2:00 P.M. at the Fountain Inn, now the Lincoln Hotel, to which meeting the physicians of Lancaster and adjoining counties were respectfully invited. This committee never had the opportunity to report; the medical gentlemen, being strong in their conviction and filled with enthusiasm for the advancement of the profession, could not decide upon a president. They all wanted to be godfather of this expected infant organization, but old Dr. Time, in his patient way and with the prescribing elixir of harmony in frequent doses, brought forth the birthday of this hoped for infant twenty-one years later.

On January 14, 1844, Dr. Ely Parry called a meeting of a few physicians of the city at his home. The following physicians were present: Doctors Washington L. Atlee, John L. Atlee, Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg, J. Leonard, H. Muhlenberg, E. Landis, C. A. Cameron, Ely Parry, Patrick and Alexander Cassidy, Henry Carpenter, and Samuel Humes. Dr. John L. Atlee offered a resolution to include the county medical gentlemen in their organization. On February 14, 1844, at 11:00 A.M., the joint meeting was held at the City Lyceum of Franklin College, which was at 109-115 North Lime Street. Dr. Samuel Humes was elected president; Doctors Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg and Samuel Duffield, vice-presidents; Dr. Henry Carpenter, recording secretary; and Dr. Washington L. Atlee, corresponding secretary; completing the organization of the Lancaster City and County Medical Society. This medical infant survived the struggles of its birthday and was christened by the governor of the state, David H. Porter. He issued a charter by which it could discharge its organic functions with freedom and honor. Its membership at this time was forty-four.

The history of this Society is a record of a struggle on the part of a comparative few of its members to elevate its standards and advance medical science. Personal jealousy and selfish interests have at times endangered its life.

The first paper presented before the Society was by Dr. Washington Atlee on "Ovariectomy."

On April 11, 1848, Dr. John L. Atlee received a communication from the Chester County Medical Society asking him to aid in promoting the interest of the profession throughout the state and in an effort to influence medical education in the medical institutions. Lancaster was chosen as a meeting place, and a number of county societies were represented. They met in the Methodist Church on South Queen Street. Dr. George Kerfoot called the convention to order. Dr. John P. Heister of Berks County was nominated temporary chairman. After business of minor importance had been transacted, Dr. Gouverneur Emerson offered the following preamble and resolution relative to the formation of a state society.

"Whereas, the extension of knowledge upon all subjects pertaining to the healing art, and the improvement of the capacities of those to whose skill and attention the suffering community is necessarily entrusted are matters of the deepest interest to the public; we, therefore, representatives of a large portion of the medical faculty of the State of Pennsylvania, believing that these objects may be greatly promulgated through a systematic organization of the members of the profession of the commonwealth assembled in convention in the city of Lancaster, 'Resolve, that this convention now proceed to the organization of a State Medical Society.'"

Dr. Samuel Humes of Lancaster was elected president; Dr. John Heister, Berks County, and Dr. Thomas Wood, Lycoming County, vice-presidents; Dr. Alfred Stile, Philadelphia, and Dr. G. F. Dimock, Susquehanna County, secretaries.

The leading men from this society chosen as presidents of the State Society are as follows:

- 1848 — Samuel Humes, M.D.
- 1857 — John L. Atlee, M.D.
- 1881 — Jacob L. Ziegler, M.D.
- 1890 — Alexander Craig, M.D.
- 1909 — Theodore B. Appel, M.D.
- 1921 — Frank G. Hartman, M.D.



DR. FRANK G. HARTMAN

side of medicine, drifted into the social side, and met an early death.

[*Evidence from the Lancaster City & County Medical Society minutes shows that far from being dissatisfied, both Drs. Ziegler and Craig maintained a high interest in and loyalty to the Society; they were born "medical organizers," and would form a new organization at the drop of a hat. As noted, both became presidents of the State Society. —Editor]

In 1849, the National Medical Society met in New York City. Delegates from this society were Drs. John L. Atlee and George Kerfoot, who helped organize the American Medical Association.

Dr. Craig of Columbia and Dr. Ziegler of Mt. Joy were not pleased with the way the city physicians were managing the City and County Society, so they organized a society called the College of Surgeons and Physicians of Columbia in 1890, also, a Pathological Society in 1892. *Both of

these organizations lost the purpose of the scientific



DR. ALEXANDER CRAIG

In 1851, this society adopted a scale for professional services. This code of ethics shows that the members of the profession estimated the value of their services as the present day physicians do. An extra charge was permitted for traveling at night, for bad roads and rough weather, and for the application of leeches, the charge being \$1.00 to \$5.00.

At no time in human history has development in scientific medicine been so prolific as during the ninety years of this society's life. Only by looking back five thousand years into Babylonian history, down through the history of the Greeks and Romans, can one find its equal.

This medical society was baptized in the third year after its birth in the name and spirit of preventive medicine through the simple act of washing hands in solutions of chlorine and water. In 1847, a young Hungarian physician, Dr. Semmelweiss, was much concerned over the mortality rate of mothers, when it dawned upon him that disease was not always developed within the body but that something on the outside caused disease and death. He reduced the mortality rate from eighteen out of every one hundred mothers to three in each one hundred births in a period of three months, simply by the washing of hands in chlorine and water. His superiors did not take kindly to this procedure, and he lost his job. After eleven years of continued effort by voice and pen to convince the medical profession of Europe that they were killers of mothers, he wrote in 1861 "The Aetiology, Concept, and Prophylaxis of Childhood Fever." In all probability, "no more heart rending human scientific work" has ever been written, denouncing the physicians as murderers and it shocked the medical profession of the civilized world and aroused the lay people in the interest of better protection for maternity cases. All of this must have surely impressed the members of this young medical organization with a great deal of force.

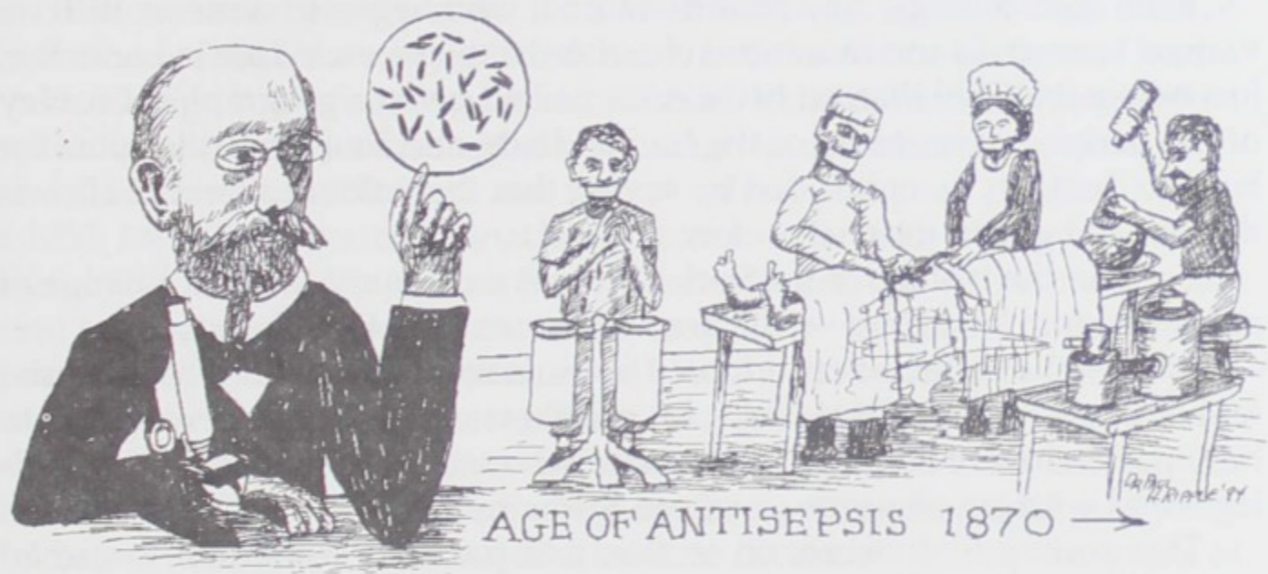
In 1843, Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote an essay on the infections that follow childbirth, but there was nothing definite in the paper as to method of treatment or suggestion of preventive measures. Up to this time, important textbooks of the day in obstetrics opposed the theory of infection as the means of transmitting puerperal fever. Dr. Hodge, professor of obstetrics in the University of Pennsylvania, and Dr. Meigs, professor at Jefferson Medical College, vigorously attacked Dr. Holmes' essay. Dr. Holmes' answer to these criticisms was, "I take no offense and attempt no retort when a man makes a quarrel with me over the counterpane that covers a living mother and her new born infant by her side."

The study of basal metabolism, the clinical thermometer, and the development of anesthesia in 1845-46 must have excited a great deal of enthusiasm as the greatest boom that could come to surgery.

In 1856, Dr. Favre, in a London hospital during the amputation of a leg, introduced a tube into the femoral artery and noted the rise of the blood in the tube to one hundred twenty millimeters, which established a gauge for

measuring normal blood pressure which we use today. The idea of blood pressure was developed much earlier than this date. In 1710, Steven Hales, an English clergyman, spent his days of recreation in shackling horses to the ground, preferably mares, and opening the femoral artery and fastening therein a copper tube about 1/6" in diameter, watching the rise of blood to a height above the body of the horse of four, five and six feet. The difference in this height in different horses excited a good deal of comment and much debate in professional minds, but nothing much came of it until 1856. The first attempt was made on human beings and the reading of blood pressure as we do now was established in 1896.

In 1865, Dr. Joseph Lister, surgeon at Edinborough Hospital, Scotland, found the first principles of antiseptic solutions by using carbolic solution as a spray in treating compound fractures and having wounds heal without the process of suppuration.



Then came one of the ten greatest discoveries of the world, which has given to mankind the greatest service, for its benefit was brought about in 1865 by Pasteur in France—the germ theory. Not only did he discover bacteria, but, in his study of anthrax and hydrophobia, he used weakened bacteria for immunizing, as a preventive of the disease, and also as inoculation of human beings and animals suffering from anthrax and hydrophobia as a curative measure. Previous to this time, diseases and their tissue changes were studied and much talked about, but the causes were not known until Pasteur found that bacteria produced all infectious diseases. The unfolding of these basic things in the art of medicine must have profoundly stirred the medical gentlemen of this society and revolutionized their ideas of medical diseases to new methods of diagnosis and treatment.

One important discovery after another was announced in the crowded years from 1870 to 1904. Dr. Koch in Germany discovered tuberculosis bacil-

lus in 1882. The cause of leprosy was demonstrated as a bacillus in 1871 by Hansen; the cause of gonorrhea by Neisser in 1879; the cause of typhoid fever by Eberth in 1880; the cause of the pneumonias by Pasteur, Sternberg, Frankel and Friedlander in 1881 to 1883; of diphtheria by Klebs in 1883; of lockjaw by Nicolaier in 1884; of meningitis by Weichselbaum in 1887; of malaria by Laveran in 1880; of syphilis by Schaudinn in 1901. A host of workers and associates made other less important discoveries.

In 1851, the State Society requested the society to give a list of physicians who were practicing in Lancaster County. There were ninety-seven physicians who were graduates of medical colleges and twenty practicing physicians who were not graduates (eighteen practicing in the county and two in the city). At that time, occasional students would read with a preceptor for a year or two and then practice medicine without a diploma, and they developed into fairly good men.

Even Josh Billings, American humorist, who began to write in 1810 on various human ills and humorous characteristics, gave a lecture in Lancaster, just before the Civil War, on boils. After he had given a geographical survey of the peripheral anatomy of the human body and located fertile spots for boils to develop, he concluded by saying that the unkindest boil of all was the one that got on the chair before you did.

Early in the history of the Society, it was customary to wear a badge of mourning for thirty days on the death of a member of the Society.

In 1859 the State Society adopted a resolution that it would be inconsistent and unsound medical ethics for members of the medical profession to hold professional relations with females who taught in female medical colleges and with females who practiced medicine.

This society took exception to this, and passed a resolution to use all honorable means to have the resolution of the State Society rescinded. This shows a liberal vision concerning women in the medical profession on the part of this medical society.

The Demuth bath tub, said to be the first one in America, was installed in the home of Jacob Demuth, 116 E. King Street this city in 1839, an unusual distinction. It was made of wood staves and iron bands. Today, it lies almost forgotten in the basement of the warehouse of Henry E. Demuth, a grandson of the builder Jacob Demuth.

In 1842, the second bath tub was installed in the home of Adam Thompson, Cincinnati. When bath tubs became in vogue, a few of the medical societies throughout the state adopted resolutions that the public should be warned of the danger of the frequent use of the bath tub, that pneumonia and other congestive types of diseases could be incurred. This medical society did not interfere with the freedom of one's personal hygiene, nor is there a record that Lancaster City had a law governing the taking of a bath.

Philadelphia prohibited the taking of a bath more than once a week. If one needed or desired to bathe more frequently, one must secure a physician's prescription for same. Boston imposed a fine for the same offense. Society at large was scandalized by the thought of anyone's nakedly exposing himself to bathe in clean water. Dr. Samuel Metzger, born in Lancaster, who entered the practice of medicine about 1860 and practiced about sixty-two years, told me of a patient of his, a maiden woman of uncertain age, who had three pets: a parrot, cat, and dog. These pets went wherever she went, dining room, bedroom, living room, and now the bath room. Disrobing for the bath with six eyes set to visualize her mortal nudity was too much for the sensitive modesty of this maiden lady, so each pet was blindfolded.

On one occasion, a gentleman rushed his daughter into the office of Dr. Lackey Murrey of this city, much perturbed, saying, "Doctor, my daughter has a fishbone in her throat. If you dislodge it, I will give you a good horse." The doctor immediately pulled out a snuff box, and let her inhale a bit of snuff. She sneezed, out came the fish bone, and the doctor had a new horse.

Dr. George B. Kerfoot was born in Dublin, Ireland, June 1808, received a medical education at Jefferson Medical College, and entered the medical practice in Lancaster in 1830. He was a man of culture and good public address. In 1833, he began a series of anatomical lectures. In 1840, he established an Anatomical Hall for lectures on South Queen Street, this city, where he lectured to students and physicians in anatomy. It was the desire of physicians of those early years, as now, to be good anatomists. In order to get subjects for his anatomical study, he established contact with someone at the Lancaster County Hospital to give him information when a good subject had died and there were no friends to claim the body. After the burial in Potter's Field, he would take a few trusted friends to lift the body from the grave at night and proceed to the place of dissection for the anatomical feast. Occasionally, the information would leak to another faction led by Alexander Cassidy, who did not fancy Dr. Kerfoot's methods. They would hide in the bushes and behind trees; when the body was lifted from the grave, Dr. Cassidy and his friends would throw stones and sticks and drive off Dr. Kerfoot's crowd. Then they would have their anatomical feast at their selected quarters.

After repeated experiences of this type both factions called a truce of war and selected physicians who offered their services to the Poor Board with the plea that they could probably give the inmates better attention and utilize the services of the County Hospital to a better advantage than the appointee of the Poor Board. The Poor Board refused their services on the ground that they had an objective in view other than rendering services to the inmates of the County Hospital. A number of appeals of this kind has been made to the Poor Board over a period of years, and we are still doing the same thing on the same plea that was made eighty years ago.

The war clouds began to appear very threatening when Abraham Lincoln visited Lancaster in February 1861 after his great campaign against Stephen Douglas, Democratic candidate for president, in the fall of 1860. During this campaign Stephen Douglas and Abraham Lincoln frequently met on the political platforms and debated the national questions. On one occasion, these two gentlemen were walking up the road in a small town in Illinois to the place where they were to deliver their campaign speeches. Mr. Douglas said to Mr. Lincoln, "Mr. Lincoln, there is a man coming toward us that's drunk."

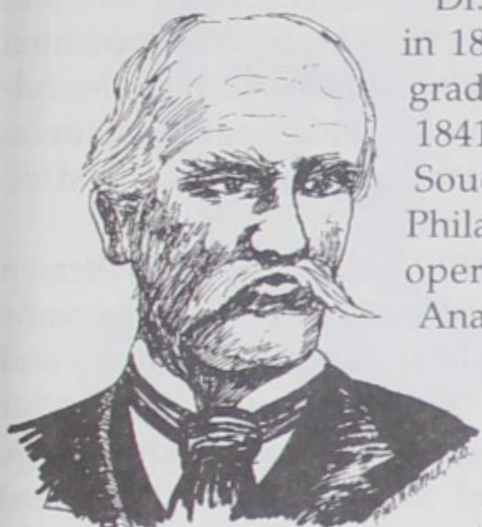
Mr. Lincoln, the magnificent – Lincoln, whose soul went out to all classes of people irrespective of creed and color, turned to Stephen Douglas and said, "Mr. Douglas, he walks like a Democrat."

The April meeting of the Lancaster City and County Medical Society adjourned without transacting business and proceeded to the Court House to attend a union meeting at which the war question was being discussed. At the outbreak of the War, this society's meetings became irregular until the close of the War, when the Society was reorganized and returned to its normal monthly meetings.

Dr. Jacob Lindemuth Ziegler, born November 17, 1822 in East Donegal Township, graduated from Jefferson Medical College in 1844, entered the practice of medicine at Mount Joy, Lancaster County, and practiced fifty-eight years. He is an example of many of the physicians of his day who traveled, visiting patients, on horseback with saddle bags. Many of the physicians of the day traveled for one, two or three days, even a week, without returning home. They traveled in this manner through cold and hot weather, rain and snow. Such experiences would develop very hardy men, both mentally and physically, fearless, courageous, strongly individualistic. Their laboratory was their daily experiences, and their pharmacopoeia was much limited. They had much time to meditate as they rode over the country, making them forcible and powerful, and they would not hesitate to express their opinions on medical matters. For instance, one example was the value of *veratrum viridi* in congestive fevers. At every monthly meeting of the medical society for one year, some of these gentlemen would start a spirited discussion on the use of the drug and its virtues, while the opponents would denounce it because of its depressing effect on the heart.

I have avoided biographies of members of the Society, but there are four medical families whose names have appeared in Lancaster City and County in the profession of medicine for a century, and I feel that we cannot do justice to the history of this society without mentioning their names. Also a few medical gentlemen who were born in this county became nationally known in the profession, practicing elsewhere. Before naming these medical gentlemen, I wish to speak of our present Secretary of Health, the Honorable Theodore Appel, of whom we are very fond, who has carried a good report

of the Lancaster City and County Medical Society through the state by the splendid work he has accomplished in the State Health Department.



DR. HAYES AGNEW

Dr. Hayes Agnew was born in Sadsbury Township in 1820. His father also was a physician. After he graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1841, he practiced medicine for several years in Soudersburg, Lancaster County, then moved to Philadelphia in 1848 and lectured on anatomy and operative surgery in the Philadelphia School of Anatomy. Later, he was demonstrator of anatomy at the University of Pennsylvania, and subsequently professor of clinical surgery. He achieved national and international reputation as a surgeon. Dr. John Deaver mentioned the fact in one of his clinics that Dr. Agnew could remove a stone from the bladder in twenty-three

seconds from the first stroke of the knife until the stone was in his hand. The best Dr. John Deaver could do was one and a half minutes. [Prior to the advent of anesthesia, the speed of the surgeon was very important. -Editor]



BEFORE ANTISEPSIS AND ANESTHESIA

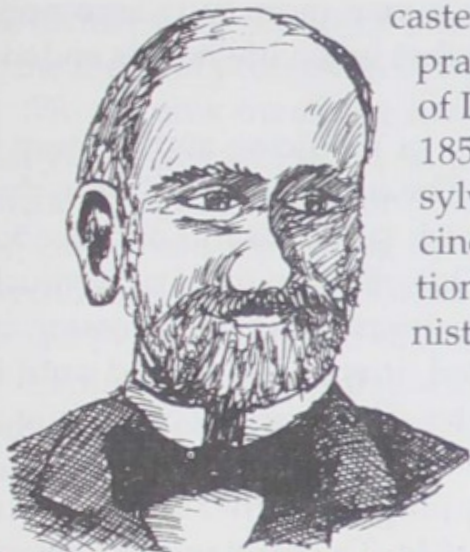
Dr. John Blair Deaver, author and international authority on appendectomy, was born in East Drumore Township, Lancaster County, July 21, 1855. He was the son of Dr. J. M. Deaver. As a boy he attended the Chestnut Level Academy. He found a kindred spirit in Dr. Sides who practiced medicine in this vicinity for over fifty years. John Deaver loved to

travel over the hills of Southern Lancaster County with Dr. Sides and the many conversations they had inspired the boy with a desire to become a surgeon. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1878 and entered the practice of medicine in Philadelphia. In 1914, he was appointed professor of surgery in the University of Pennsylvania. One of the outstanding features of Dr. Deaver's professional career was his operations upon approximately 15,000 persons stricken with appendicitis. He died September 25, 1931, after an illness of almost a year.

Dr. Jonathan Foltz, born in Lancaster City in 1810, graduated from Jefferson Medical College in 1831 and enlisted in the U. S. Navy as surgeon the same year. He was attached to the Medical Bureau under President Buchanan, and was his personal physician. He became U. S. Surgeon General under President Grant. When President Buchanan went to Washington for the inauguration, he stopped at the National Hotel, and was taken ill the next day. The hotel was infested with rats, and the management had used arsenic to poison the rats. The hotel guests used water from a cistern in which dead poisoned rats were found. The water carried arsenic and poisoned the guests. President Buchanan became much alarmed and called for Dr. Henry Carpenter, his personal physician from Lancaster. Dr. Carpenter spent one week in making the visit and sent a bill for \$3000.00.

Dr. Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg was born March 14, 1795 in Lancaster, a son of Reverend Dr. Henry E. Muhlenberg, pastor of the Trinity Lutheran Church, a man of unusual medical intuition, and said to be the strongest man, physically, in the county in his day. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and started practicing in 1814. His grandfather, Reverend Dr. Melchior Muhlenberg, was called by the British when encamped in Philadelphia in 1777 "the arch enemy." His son, Henry E. Muhlenberg, graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1838, and entered into the practice of medicine in Lancaster. Dr. Henry E. Muhlenberg, Jr., grandson of Frederick A. Muhlenberg, was born in Lancaster City in 1850, graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1871, served as surgeon in the United States Marines until 1877, and then entered the practice of medicine in Lancaster. He died in 1907. He was a man I learned to respect and admire, of rough exterior, abrupt in manner, but with a heart as large as an ox. He was the first physician in Lancaster to administer antitoxin in the treatment of diphtheria. He was mayor of Lancaster City from 1899 to the close of 1902. I have with me a receipted bill of Dr. Frederick A. Muhlenberg, written in his handwriting: "Medical services rendered to Peter Kelly, self and family, from May 1832 to December 31, 1853 - \$20.50." It seems like an unusual amount of service for so small a fee.

Musser families — Dr. Benjamin Musser was born July 13, 1749. He lived and practiced medicine in Manor Township. He died November 25, 1820, and among his posterity were nine physicians, six of whom practiced in Lan-



DR. JOHN H. MUSSER

caster County. One was Dr. Benjamin Musser who practiced medicine in Strasburg and was father of Dr. John Herr Musser, who was born June 22, 1856. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1877 and entered the practice of medicine in Philadelphia in 1879. He attained a national and international reputation as an internist and diagnostician. [He was president of the American Medical Association in 1903-04. – *Editor*] His son, Dr. John H. Musser, Jr., is now practicing medicine in New Orleans, Louisiana. He is professor of internal medicine at Tulane University.

Dr. Isaac Winters was born in 1800 at New Holland. He graduated in 1820 and practiced in Hinkletown. He was so poor that he borrowed money to buy a horse and a suit of clothes. One week later, the horse was stolen, but he struggled along and became much loved by his patients. He practiced medicine for fifty-three years. He died July 27, 1873. He is another example of those physicians who rode horseback with saddle bags, visiting patients. His son, Dr. Isaac D. Winters, practiced medicine in Goodville, Lancaster County. His grandson, Dr. John Winters, is now in active practice in Blue Ball, Lancaster County.

Dr. John L. Atlee was born November 2, 1799, graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1820, and entered the practice of medicine in Lancaster City the same year. He practiced medicine sixty-five years, until the time of his death, October 1, 1885. In 1868, he was elected vice-president of the National Medical Association, now the American Medical Association, and president in 1882. Dr. Atlee's inaugural address was delivered in Cleveland, Ohio in 1883 at the age of eighty-three years. It is worthy of any physician's time to read this address and find a place for it in his library. I quote a part of this address in order to show the intense interest that he maintained in his profession throughout the sixty-five years of practice.

"Let me impress upon the mind of every member of the profession, the necessity of strict and undivided attention to the duties of his high calling. Let no outside influence operate to interfere with these duties. When you undertake the case of a patient, your whole duty belongs to him. The intermission of a single visit which on your part may have been devoted to pleasure, may sacrifice the life of your patient."

"Above all things, ever strive to maintain the honor of the profession."

"One word more, and I have done, and I say chiefly as a word of encouragement to the younger among you. At the close of a long life, one devoted unreservedly to the study and practice of medicine, I will say that not withstanding its uncertainties, its fatigue, its anxieties, its disappointments, I am

completely satisfied that in no other way can a man more fully accomplish his sole duty to God and to his fellowmen; so that when life here is ended, it can truly be said: 'He went about doing good.'"

He achieved a lasting fame in the history of medicine and surgery by reintroducing the operation for ovariectomy. This operation had been done by a French surgeon in 1775 and by two English surgeons in London about 1810, and in this country in 1809 by Dr. MacDowell, who lived in Kentucky. Due to the high mortality rate and much opposition from the profession and laymen as murderous, cruel, and unwarranted, it was abandoned until Dr. Atlee successfully operated in 1843 in Lancaster. The courtesy of reading the description of this operation was granted to me by the present Dr. John L. Atlee, the third of that name. It was written by his grandfather and published in the *American Medical Journal* in January 1844. The brilliant and descriptive language reads like a romance, worthy of the pen of Dumas, and should be found in every physician's library. It is a priceless bit of history in medical and surgical annals.

The patient was told by her friends and family that, if Dr. Atlee operated on her and she died, they would bring charges of murder against him, of which charges he was perfectly familiar before he assumed the responsibility of the operation. When one reflects at the time of this operation upon the violent opposition of the profession and laymen as being murderous in its attempt, one marvels at the courage, the fortitude, the unusual force of character, the determination, and the nerves of steel to operate in the face of such sentiment of the profession and the laymen. It must be understood that at that time there were no anesthetics, no understanding of asepsis, of antiseptics, no knowledge of bacteria, no hospitals in Lancaster, no trained nurses.

The patient, who was twenty-seven years of age, received the night before the operation ten drops of McMunn's elixir of opium. The operation was performed on a dining room table, and the patient was told to cry out if much pain was inflicted. The incision of the skin called forth a cry of pain, but the later stages of the operation caused little suffering. A median line incision through the abdominal wall was made, and both ovaries removed. Each ovary weighed about one pound, and the fluid taken away weighed twenty pounds. The sutures and ligatures used were silk and leather with the ends carried through the abdominal wound, permitting them to slough away. The operation was performed in June, and the last ligature came away in October. The patient recovered completely and lived for fifty years longer. The operation opened an avenue for a brilliant career which he achieved throughout the country. For a time following this operation, he was called a murderer and carried a sword cane as a matter of self-defense.

One of the strongest and noblest of human emotions, patriotism, has called the Lancaster County physicians to service during the wars occurring within

the history of our country. The World War — there were thirty-four members of the medical profession in the county who responded to the patriotic call.

We are now marching toward the century mark of this society's history. Many changes will occur in the art of medicine before the century mark is reached. I believe some philosophical study to promote a better understanding of human emotions as a factor in illness, with the application of psychotherapeutics in directing mental and physical habits as preventive measures for health and disease, will take place.

Ladies and gentlemen, you are invited to be here on the one-hundredth anniversary of this society. I will be present to extend to you a greeting of good cheer.

Liverwurst

Dr. William Hartman tells this story about Dr. George Dorrance. In the early 1900s Dr. Dorrance, a prominent surgeon known for his work on cancer at the University of Pennsylvania, was invited to a Lancaster City & County Medical Society meeting to present a paper on blood transfusions. Following the meeting, he offered to go to the hospital the next morning to show how blood was typed and to perform a transfusion. One of the physicians present asked what kind of case he would transfuse. Dr. Dorrance replied that there is almost always a suitable patient with pernicious anemia in the hospital.

The physician replied, "No, we don't have a case of pernicious anemia in the hospital. We feed them liverwurst and they all get well." Dr. Dorrance quickly dismissed this as an expression of an ignorant country doctor.

In the meantime, Drs. Minot, Whipple, et al had discovered that liver ingestion or injections cured pernicious anemia and received many awards for their discovery.

Several years later Dr. Dorrance returned to deliver another paper and told Dr. T. B. Appel, "A physician here told me several years ago that you have no cases of pernicious anemia because they are all cured by giving them liver."

Dr. Appel replied, "That's right, George, they do get well if you feed them liverwurst."

Dr. Dorrance concluded his discussion by saying, "My contemptuous attitude toward an ignorant country doc deprived me of medical immortality."