

One Hundred Years of Progress in Pathology in Texas

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THE subject of pathology in Texas had its beginning that day in 1889 when young George Dock of Galveston walked to the speaker's stand with a microscope in his hand and proceeded to demonstrate the various phases of the malarial parasite to members of the Texas State Medical Association. Prior to this time, some progress had been made. But this was the real beginning.

For those who would like a brief survey of the history of pathology in the world, I can heartily recommend an address given by Dr. Howard T. Karsner.³

PATHOLOGY AT SCHOOLS

The review of the history of a century of pathology in Texas must be reduced to eighty years, since the earliest mention of the subject dates back to 1873. The late Dr. Albert O. Singleton,¹ professor of surgery at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, is authority for the unconfirmed statement that the first professor of pathology was Dr. William Penny, who was head of the Department of Physiology and Pathology at the Texas Medical College, organized in 1873 in Galveston. No details are known regarding this man and his activities.

The need for laboratories of pathology in Texas was stated by Dr. Ferdinand Herff of San Antonio in 1889 at a meeting of the Texas State Medical Association. At that time he noted that there were no laboratories of pathology in the state.

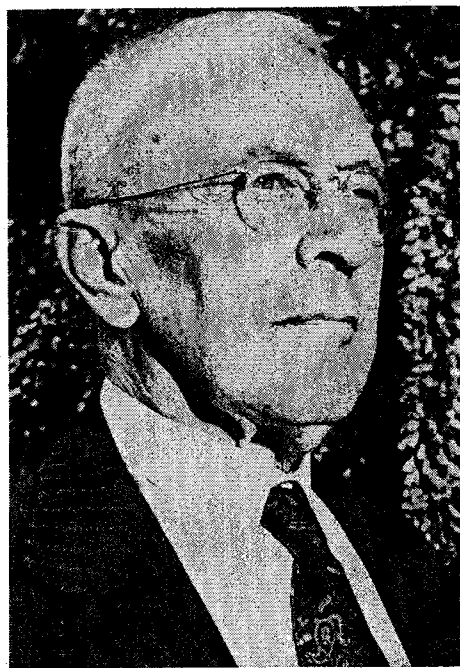
The need for the teaching of pathology in Texas was attested by the chairman's address delivered by Dr. Allen J. Smith in 1901 before the Section on Microscopy and Pathology of the State Medical Association of Texas. I quote in part from that address:

It is well within the memory of many of the Association when this branch was not regarded as of sufficient importance and practical value to the active physician to require its adoption in the school curriculum; and even today, there are more schools than one, of well-recognized merit, in which it is represented by a lectureship, whose instruction is open to the voluntary attention of the student, but of which a trial of his knowledge is not regarded as essential to graduation....⁶

This address of nearly 4,000 words was delivered in unhurried and beautiful English and should be read by those who are interested in the history of this subject. Other papers which were published at the same time were also long and unhurried, but it should be

remembered that that was an era in which physicians were not harassed and diverted by a multitude of distractions which beset us at present. At that time there were not the bewildering variety and number of medical meetings—national, state, district, and county. The doctors were not compelled to choose between the constantly increasing number of medical periodicals and journals on every conceivable medical subject.

The first medical school department of pathology known to exist in Texas was established at the Texas Medical College and Hospital in Galveston in 1889.¹ In that year Dr. George Dock was appointed head of the department and he held this position until the University of Texas Medical Branch was established in Galveston. The first Medical Branch pathologist was Dr. Allen J. Smith, who served from 1891 to



DR. GEORGE DOCK

After Burns, G. R.: Men of Medicine, Gifted and Inspiring Teacher, Postgrad. Med. 8:325 (Aug.) 1950.

1903. Dr. Smith was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and had served in the Department of Pathology of that institution as had Dr. Dock. Dr. Alfred E. Thayer then served from 1903 to 1907. Following Dr. Thayer, Dr. James J. Terrill became professor

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PATHOLOGY—Stout—continued

of pathology and served from 1904 until 1913. A graduate of the Medical Branch, Dr. Henry Charles Hartman, became professor of pathology in 1913 and remained until 1928. From 1926 to 1928 he was also dean. From 1928 to the present time, Dr. Paul Brindley has officiated as head of the department. The growth of the department has been such that there are now seven pathologists in the teaching department.

In 1891 when the Fort Worth Medical School was established, Dr. William Howard was professor of pathology. The first graduating class in 1895 consisted of five students. In 1910 this school became the Medical Department of Texas Christian University and Dr. J. D. Covert headed the Department of Pathology. He held this position until 1914. Dr. P. L. Goodman then became head of the department and retained that position until 1918, when the school was merged with Baylor University College of Medicine.¹⁰

The third school of medicine to be organized with a Department of Pathology was the University of Dallas Medical Department.⁴ Baylor University took over this school in 1903. Records for these early years show that in 1901-1902 the first and second year classes scheduled pathology for two periods of one hour each per week. These were taught by a Dr. Ullrich. He was followed by Dr. A. E. Blount, whose title was professor of pathology, histology, and bacteriology and lecturer on dermatology. In 1904, Dr. Pierre Wilson became professor of histology, pathology, and bacteriology. He also taught hematology, surgery, and clinical surgery. It was not until 1904 that the chair of pathology was made important. Students were taught by lectures and demonstrations. Bacteriology was taught in the second year by one lecture a week; and in the third and fourth years, in bacteriologic laboratories eight hours a week, with two lectures and one recitation per week on pathology and bacteriology.

In 1907, Dr. A. E. Thayer became professor of pathology. The chair was vacant in 1912-1913. In the latter year, Dr. W. H. Moursund became professor of pathology. The departments were again combined in 1917, and Dr. J. H. Black became professor of pathology and bacteriology. In 1919, Dr. George T. Caldwell became head of the department and occupied that position until 1943, when Baylor University College of Medicine was moved to Houston. Dr. Stuart A. Wallace became professor of the department at Houston; Dr. Caldwell remained at Dallas.

The new school at Dallas was named Southwestern Medical College; in 1949 it became Southwestern Medical School of the University of Texas. Following

the death of Dr. Caldwell in 1947, Dr. Charles T. Ashworth became head of the department. Dr. E. E. Muirhead became the next department head, which position he still occupies. Other pathologists and bacteriologists who occupied the chair at Dallas include Drs. Marvin D. Bell, Roger J. B. Hubbard, Morris L. Richardson, Earl B. McKinley, and Hardy A. Kemp.

During the time covered by this outline of the history of pathology in the Texas medical schools, great progress was being made. The departments became increasingly useful in their teaching and other activities in Texas as each year passed.

SECTION ON PATHOLOGY

Prior to 1893, there was no section set apart for pathology. The Section on Practice of Medicine, Materia Medica and Therapeutics was used as a depository for pathology, pathology being a caudal appendage. Two of the early contributors to this section were George Dock and Allen J. Smith. Dr. Dock, as previously stated, in 1889 demonstrated the malarial parasites and reported 2 cases of leprosy.² Dr. Smith in 1893 gave a comprehensive report on "Generalization of Cancer of the Stomach."⁷ These papers were published in the *Transactions* of the Texas State Medical Association.



DR. ALLEN J. SMITH

After Allen J. Smith, *Am. J. M. Sc.* 173:753 (June) 1927.

From 1893, a Section on Microscopy and Pathology, with periodic changes in its official name, met uninterruptedly until 1918, when, probably because of the war, the section did not meet. From 1918 through 1927, the State Pathological Society of Texas conducted meetings and furnished programs during the annual sessions of the Association. It was not until 1928, following an amendment in 1927 to the By-

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Laws whereby a Section on Pathology was created, that regular meetings were resumed. In 1929 the By-Laws again were amended, changing the name of the section to Section on Clinical Pathology. There was an active discussion in 1930 as to whether or not this section should be abandoned, but it was voted to continue it. The section at present is a very lively one.

STATE SOCIETY

On May 9, 1921, eleven pathologists met in Dallas and organized the State Pathological Society of Texas, the first state society of its kind in the Union. These pathologists were Drs. J. H. Black, Marvin D. Bell, Charles F. Carter, and W. H. Moursund, all of Dallas; E. F. Cooke and Martha A. Wood, both of Houston; M. D. Levy of Galveston; J. E. Robinson of Temple; W. F. Thomson of Beaumont; Richard C. Curtis of Corsicana; and B. F. Stout of San Antonio. A constitution and by-laws was adopted, and Dr. Levy was elected the first president. At this meeting five additional pathologists were added as charter members, including Drs. George M. Graham of Austin; Frank W. Hartman, Temple; Henry C. Hartman, Galveston; F. May, Bryan; and Truman C. Terrell, Fort Worth. Dr. Black was the second president of the society. The society ceased to exist at the close of 1935, there being no meetings during the ensuing three years.

A new constitution and by-laws was adopted, and Dr. George T. Caldwell, professor of pathology at Baylor University College of Medicine at Dallas, was elected president in 1938. All of the charter members are living except Drs. Cooke, Curtis, Graham, Thomson, and Wood. Dr. Levy is a leading internist in Houston; Dr. Black has entered the field of allergy; Dr. Moursund just recently has retired as dean of Baylor University College of Medicine; Dr. Henry Hartman has retired. The following are actively practicing pathologists: Drs. Bell, Carter, Robinson, Terrell, and Stout.

Great honor has come to the pathologists of Texas in having Dr. Terrell as the first pathologist to become President of the Texas Medical Association; Dr. George Turner of El Paso is the second pathologist to have that honor. Dr. Black has had the added distinction of being the only Texan elected as president of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists. Later, Dr. Black became president of the American Society of Allergists. Dr. Frank Hartman was the first president of the College of American Pathologists.

The Texas Society of Pathologists has two meetings a year, one in January and one in April. Included in the program of these meetings are not only the business activities of the organization, but also some scientific project, which for a number of years has

consisted of a tumor seminar conducted by one of the Texas professors of pathology. Continued progress and activities of new members has increased the present roll of the society to seventy-eight pathologists.

PRIVATE LABORATORIES

In 1904, I established in San Antonio the first private laboratory for clinical pathology in Texas. Others soon followed including Dr. W. F. Thomson at Beaumont and Dr. J. H. Black at Dallas in 1907; Dr. E. F. Cooke at Houston in 1909; Dr. Martha A. Wood, also in Houston, in 1911; Dr. Truman C. Terrell at Fort Worth in 1915; and Dr. W. W. Coulter at Southwestern State Hospital in San Antonio in 1917.

It is said that in 1874 there were only fifty microscopes existing in the United States. When I arrived in San Antonio, there were a few microscopes owned by physicians, but most of these were kept under glass for exhibition purposes. It was during this time that Dr. W. B. Russ of San Antonio was asked by an older physician to see with him a case which he regarded as very interesting, and said that he believed the older physicians should help out the younger men. Dr. Russ immediately saw that the lesion was obviously a widely disseminated melanocarcinoma, but the older doctor pompously announced: "Dr. Russ, this here is a case of 'pseudo-anemia' or 'Atkin's disease.'" Fortunately this degree of ignorance is extinct in these days—I hope!

The establishment of these laboratories was followed rapidly by others, until today there are laboratories in all of the larger cities; the smaller towns also are being served by these laboratories.

Following my visit to Berlin in 1910, I performed the first Wassermann test in Texas in 1911 and gave the first dose of salvarsan. Elsewhere⁹ I have published the course of events leading to the conquest of syphilis both by diagnosis and treatment.

TUMOR SEMINARS

As time went on, it became apparent that the pathologists of the state were not sufficiently versed in the diagnosis of tumors. Some had the opportunity to attend national seminars conducted by the American Society of Clinical Pathologists. The San Antonio group of pathologists had been meeting with the pathologists at Brooke Army Hospital for a special study of tumors. In 1944 this group conceived the plan of conducting a tumor seminar which could be attended by all interested pathologists. A meeting of this nature was substituted for the usual Section on Clinical Pathology program of the State Medical Association during that year. Dr. Arthur Purdy Stout of Columbia University, international authority on neoplasms, successfully conducted this project, the pro-

ceedings of which were published in the TEXAS STATE JOURNAL OF MEDICINE.

This first meeting was so enthusiastically received by those in attendance that the San Antonio group was stimulated to institute the tumor seminar as an annual event conducted each year by a noted pathologist. Guest lecturers during the past years have included Dr. Emil Novak, Baltimore; Col. J. E. Ash, Army Institute of Pathology; Dr. Shields Warren, Boston; Dr. Rupert A. Willis, Royal Cancer Hospital, London; Dr. M. J. Stewart, University of Leeds, Leeds; and Dr. Lauren B. Ackerman, St. Louis.

The value of these tumor seminars has been emphasized by Dr. Arthur Stout whom I quote.⁸

Although seminars of this sort are not new . . . the virtue and importance of the series of seminars initiated by the San Antonio group in 1944 has been to popularize such gatherings for the study of tumors so that they have been copied all over the country. This can be appreciated from the fact that since the first seminar in San Antonio, I have participated in forty-nine similar ones in fifteen other states and in Mexico. This popularity has borne fruit. The diagnostic abilities and biologic knowledge of pathologists all over the country concerning tumors has measurably increased since 1944 as I can attest from personal experience; and in my opinion the tumor seminar has been a major factor in this progress. Since a hospital pathologist is a key figure in a professional cancer education this increase in his knowledge and the awareness of tumors has had an incomparable and great effect upon the public welfare of the whole nation.

The initiation of annual events of this kind has spread rapidly over Texas, and they are now included in the programs of such organizations as the M. D. Anderson Foundation, The University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, and the North Texas Pathological Society.

INTEGRATION OF PATHOLOGY

While surgical pathology has been emphasized in the preceding paragraphs, it is important that we realize the true definition of pathology. It is not strictly morphology, because a knowledge of morphology alone would be of little gain; the true scientist wants to know the reason for these morphologic changes. Therefore, the pathologist must invoke the aid of bacteriologists, immunologists, biochemists, and other correlated scientists.

LOYALTY TO THE PROFESSION

An editorial in the July, 1905, issue of the TEXAS STATE JOURNAL OF MEDICINE, the first issue, emphasized the value of organization, stating in part:

"...If a man has chosen the medical profession for the purpose of fighting disease, of helping humanity, and alleviating the suffering of mankind, organization gives him added power. Neglect of this power is an impeachment of his very motives.

The rules requiring the examination of all surgical material and a minimum number of autopsies, together with clinicopathologic conferences, established by the American College of Surgeons for laboratories of recognized hospitals, has resulted in the integration of the clinical with the pathologic aspects.

If space permitted, much more could be said about the teaching departments of the medical schools, because these are of fundamental and paramount importance in preparing students for the practice of medicine. Splendid men have devoted themselves to teaching; others, just as capable, have worked in the field as general pathologists. Both the teachers of pathology and those who practice it in hospitals and private laboratories have closely integrated their various activities for the mutual benefit of all.

In looking back over the past five decades and the advances made in the practice of pathology, I take immense pride in the progress that has taken place and feel humbled to have had a part in it. Pathology in Texas has come of age. As we survey the history of pathology in Texas—its struggles, its advances, its achievements—we are honored in that we have made ourselves indispensable to the general practitioner, the surgeon, and the internist.

Although it is hazardous to forecast the future in this field, these predictions can be made with confidence. Since we stand upon the threshold of even greater accomplishments, future developments will be led by pathologists. And of this we can be entirely sure, Texans will be found in the vanguard of the new discoveries.

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"We can not be loyal to our profession if we fail to avail ourselves of every opportunity to further its advancement. There is no way more practical than for every reputable physician to join his county society, attend its meetings and lend his influence to the accomplishment of its enterprises. The time is at hand when no reputable physician can remain out of his society and be loyal to the profession. He may appear ethical and be respected by his fellow physicians, but he is omitting the very essence of his professional duty..."