

MEDICAL PROGRESS "MIRACULOUS" IN LAST HALF CENTURY

Recounting the romance of modern medicine before an audience of more than four thousand doctors from all over the United States at the annual session of the American Medical Association, Dr. William D. Haggard, of Nashville, Tenn., newly installed president of the association, told how the last fifty years of medicine has witnessed more achievements of miraculous character than the five whole centuries preceding.

Enumerating some of the medical discoveries which have aided mankind he called anesthetics and antiseptics the greatest contributions for they have made the achievements of modern surgery possible. Next to those, he considers the control of tuberculosis, yellow fever, typhoid and syphilis the greatest boon of medicine to the human race.

Although many diseases have been conquered and insulin has come to the aid of the diabetic patient, there are yet countless problems to solve, Dr. Haggard pointed out.

"There is yet no specific for pneumonia, which with all the other acute respiratory diseases, destroys more lives every day than any other ailment. The causes of smallpox, measles, mumps, chicken-pox and the much dreaded sleeping sickness are as yet undetected. Cancer, the most pitiless of all maladies, is our rebellious and still elusive foe," he added.

Emphasizing the economic importance of being healthy, Dr. Haggard pointed out that the number of cases of sickness in the United States in a year is thirteen and a half million, and economically amounts to a loss of a billion dollars annually. The two hundred and twenty-five million sick days a year in the United States, estimated by Dr. Haggard, are equivalent to about two days of sickness a year for every person in the United States.

He urged the importance of preventive medicine and advocated for that purpose a survey of the apparently healthy, a "drive to treat the incipiently sick while they can be cured". "Medicine," said Dr. Haggard, "is the only profession which is literally and altruistically devoted to professional suicide, because it endeavors chiefly, not to cure, but to prevent disease."

YEAR'S TOLL ADDS 1600 CHILD CRIPPLES

There are five cripples among every thousand people in the United States, Dr. F. A. Gaenslen, of Milwaukee, Wis., told the Association members. If it were possible to prevent infantile paralysis, which is responsible for one third of all juvenile cripples, rickets, and joints tuberculosis, the number of cripples could be reduced greatly, he said. About 1600 child cripples are added each year to the ranks of the lame.

Ants do not like castor oil for Brazilian agricultural experts have found that the slowly burnt seed of the castor oil plant produces fumes that not only kill the ants but prevents the nest from being reinfested.
