

MEDICINE

Organization of Surgeons Wages War on Disease

American College of Surgeons, Though Not a Teaching Institution, Does its Part to Educate the Public

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EDITOR'S NOTE: The 24th Clinical Congress of the American College of Surgeons opens in Boston on October 15, lending particular timeliness to this informative article.

WHAT is this American College of Surgeons?

The American College of Surgeons is not a teaching institution but an association of surgeons and surgical specialists of competency and of character who are engaged in a common pursuit to improve the service which they are rendering to the public; to better the hospitals and other surgical environment; to improve surgery that is necessary, and to eliminate careless and unnecessary surgery; to conduct practical research into surgical problems; and to give the public personal facts that will tend to preserve health and prolong life.

This College of Surgeons is not a political or governmental body. It is a great fraternal organization, guided by public requirements, and universal laws that have resulted from centuries of service by our greatest learned profession.

Each candidate for Fellowship in the American College of Surgeons must furnish positive evidence of preliminary primary and college training; a four or five year course in an approved medical school; a degree of Doctor of Medicine; a license to practice in his community; one to three years of training in a good hospital, or its equivalent; satisfactory assistantship in surgical service; at least seven years of medical and surgical practice; fifty to eighty per cent. of his work devoted to surgery or a surgical specialty. Above all, he must be morally, ethically, and professionally acceptable.

Must Submit Case Records

As practical evidence of his diagnostic, scientific, and professional judgment and his surgical qualifications, he must submit to the College for approval one hundred case records of surgical

operations which he himself has performed, and finally he must sign a Fellowship Pledge which declares that he does not obtain his patients by paying commissions, or through other unworthy commercial transactions.

An outstanding object of the American College of Surgeons is to emphasize the clinical aspect of surgery rather than the academic. The Fellows of the American College of Surgeons emphasize the doing of surgery rather than the talking about it.

The Clinical Congress has been called a "show me" rather than a "tell me" demonstration. It is a gathering of practical men who have come to observe the work of practical men.

Approved Hospitals

The American College of Surgeons insists upon the competency of its members and requires competency in the hospitals in which they work.

In 1916 the great hospitals of the country were taken into partnership by the College, and we have expended a total of one million dollars to achieve the goal of proper hospital care of the sick and injured. Hospitals, to secure approval, must meet a standard that has been fixed by the College.

That standard insists, as a minimum, that membership upon the staff be restricted to physicians and surgeons who are graduates of medicine in good standing and legally licensed to practice scientific medicine, who are competent in their respective fields, and worthy in character and matters of professional ethics (and under no circumstances irregulars); that the staff shall meet once a month to audit the medical and surgical work conducted in the hospital during the preceding interval; that accurate and complete case histories be written and filed so that a record of the procedures of each member of the staff may be available at all times; that modern scientific apparatus shall be provided, and that an approved clinical and pathological laboratory shall be maintained to insure facilities for correct diagnosis.

The College does not obtain its information about hospitals through correspondence, or local or general committees. Actual surveys are made by salaried employees of the College—graduates of Class A medical schools, men of maturity with an extensive training in clinical work and hospital administration. These representatives send disinterested reports of their findings to the central headquarters.

Community Cancer Clinics

The American College of Surgeons has established a standard for cancer institutes and clinics. After careful survey, approval is given to acceptable clinics where every individual may be assured of thorough birthday health examinations, and accurate diagnosis and effective treatment if he is the victim of cancer—the dread disease that now exacts an annual toll in the United States of one hundred forty thousand persons.

The College has undertaken this cancer program because it realizes that cancer, when discovered early, is curable in 48 per cent of the cases, and that without proper health supervision, of the people who are over forty years of age, one out of ten women and one out of twelve men will succumb to this dread disease.

The American College of Surgeons inaugurated its study of cancer to impress upon everyone the fact that cancer is curable by the use of the well-known and established methods of treatment that are approved by the profession of scientific medicine. In 1932 and 1933 the College reported a total of 24,448 known cancer cures of five years or more, a saving of approximately 150,000 years; and additional thousands of cancer cures of five years or more will be reported at the Boston Clinical Congress.

A recent annual report indicated that the casualties in this country, among workers in industry, numbered 19,000 killed, and 2,500,000 lost-time injuries without death. Approximately 32,500 were killed in automobile accidents, and over 1,000,000 were injured.

These appalling facts caused the American College of Surgeons to initiate its study of industrial medicine and traumatic surgery by calling a conference of outstanding lay and medical leaders in industry, in labor, in indemnity insurance, and industrial physicians and surgeons. A minimum standard was perfected and clinics which specialize in industrial medicine and traumatic surgery are under survey by the Col-

lege to determine those that are equipped to give proper service.

It is a stupendous task; but with the support of the public—employers and employees—the economic saving will amount to millions of dollars, many lives will be spared, and thousands of potential cripples will be restored to perfect health.

The American College of Surgeons has taken the leadership in a program of personal health so that the people may have the advantage of each and every discovery in the prevention of disease and in the cure of illness.

The approved hospitals, now avail-

able in every community, are urged to furnish the facilities of a diagnostic clinic to all scientific doctors in their district. The family doctor may take his patients to these Health Inventories for periodic health examinations, and there have the advantage in making his diagnosis of all up-to-date scientific apparatus and trained aids that are a part of every hospital approved by the American College of Surgeons. Thus a comprehensive audit of every patient's condition will be insured and the interests of the independent practitioner—the family doctor—will be protected.

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These are responsible for the east-west and the longitude effect found in earth's equatorial belt.

The part of the ionization that is sensitive to the earth's magnetic field increases rapidly with increasing latitude from Panama to Spokane because incoming secondaries of energies decreasing from eight to two billion get through the field's blocking effect in rapidly increasing numbers with increasing latitude, adding greatly in northern latitudes to the underlying ionization of the upper air produced by incoming photons.

Dr. Arthur H. Compton of the University of Chicago reported that there seem to be two kinds of cosmic ray bursts, an ordinary sort and a rare type about four times larger than the usual kind.

"This is very difficult to explain by any known nuclear process and the ordinary explanation would involve an element of atomic weight 1000," Dr. Compton explained.

Dr. Compton was led to this conclusion by cosmic ray measurements made this past summer in the American Rocky Mountains with Dr. G. S. Brown, Dr. H. A. Rahmel, and Prof. R. D. Bennett of Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

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ASTRONOMY

Complete Huge Disc Intended For 200-Inch Telescope

THE world's largest block of glass—originally intended for the proposed 200-inch reflecting telescope of California Institute of Technology—has now been completed. Officials of the Corning Glass Works announced that the 20-ton piece of glass will be removed from the annealing ovens to make way for another twin glass disc.

Over half as wide as the average city lot and more than two feet thick, the great glass block, shaped like a slice of pineapple as it comes from the can, has served as a valuable "trial horse" for future work. Having learned by experience the problems incidental to the pouring and casting of such a large piece of glass, engineers of the glass works are now spurring work on a second disc the same size.

Would Require Grinding

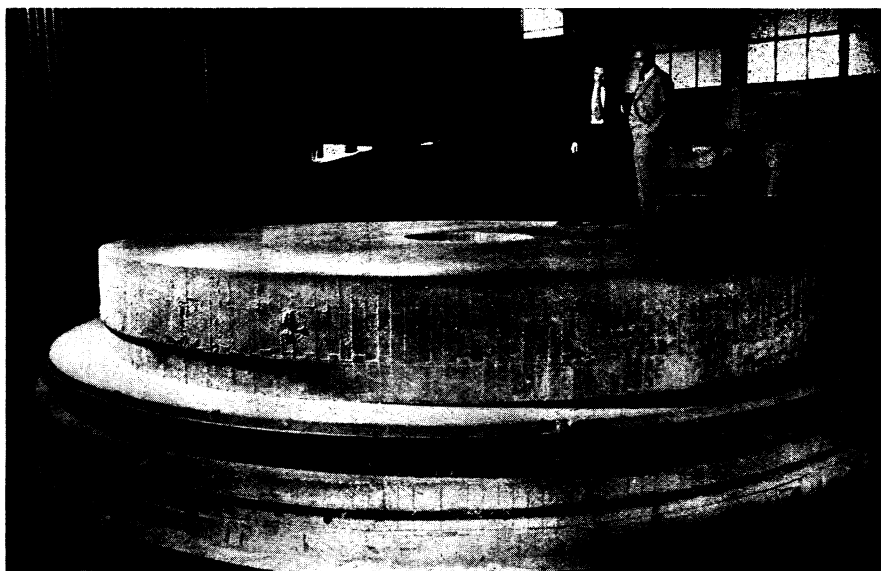
The present block of glass, it is claimed, would make a satisfactory telescope mirror but a great amount of grinding would be necessary because of the unfortunate accident which occurred at the pouring last March. At that time ceramic material used to produce a honeycomb back on the disc floated to the surface and had to be removed. The present block, therefore, is solid glass throughout. It is simpler, declare the Corning scientists, to pour and cast a second disc.

It would have been extreme good fortune indeed if the first disc cast had been chosen for the 200-inch tele-

scope mirror. Astronomers recall that when the French optical firm was casting the disc for the great 100-inch mirror of the Mt. Wilson instrument, three castings were made. After tests the best one of these was chosen. It happened to be the first cast.

The pouring of the second 200-inch disc—17 feet across—should occur before the end of the year, it was announced.

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A GIANT IN GLASS

Twenty tons is the weight of the great block of glass originally intended for the new 200-inch telescope of the California Institute of Technology. Seventeen feet across and twenty-seven inches thick, the comparative size of the disc can be judged by the men standing on it. They are Dr. J. C. Hostetter, research director of the Corning Glass Works and Dr. George V. McCauley, physicist in charge of making the mirror.