

# **American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Centennial Celebration Address**

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**Thomas H. Fenton, M.D.**  
Founder and First President  
1856 -1929  
Painting by Thomas Eakins, ca 1905

## INTRODUCTION

Here in Philadelphia we return to our Societal birthplace to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. Our roots in the City of Brotherly Love run deep – we grew directly from “The Society of Tropical Medicine of Philadelphia” which was founded a few blocks from here on March 9, 1903 by a small group of Philadelphia physicians. Our founders promptly expanded their vision and changed their name from “The Society of Tropical Medicine of Philadelphia” to “The American Society of Tropical Medicine.” Forty-eight years later, in 1951, the American Society of Tropical Medicine merged with the National Malaria Society to give rise to our modern American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

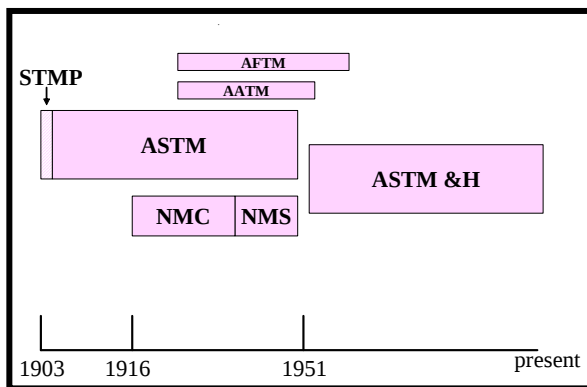


Diagram of main precursor organizations of the modern American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTM&H). STMP = the short lived Society of Tropical Medicine of Philadelphia which was begun in 1903 and then changed its name to the American Society of Tropical Medicine (no “Hygiene”); NMC / NMS = National Malaria Committee, begun in 1916 which transformed into the National Malaria Society in 1941. AATM and AFTM = American Academy of Tropical Medicine and the American Foundation for Tropical Medicine. In 1951 the ASTM and the NMS amalgamated to form the modern ASTM&H, and the AATM joined the merger shortly thereafter.

Earlier members have published excellent historical sketches at various stages of our Society. Some of these reviews were invaluable in steering me in interesting directions for this centennial lecture - John Swan’s brief history at the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting in Washington DC in 1913; Ernest Carroll Faust’s at the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting in Cincinnati in 1943; and Quentin Geiman’s at the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting in Louisville in 1953. Indeed, Geiman speaks to us directly across the decades of his hope that “members of this organization 50 years hence can point with equal pride to the

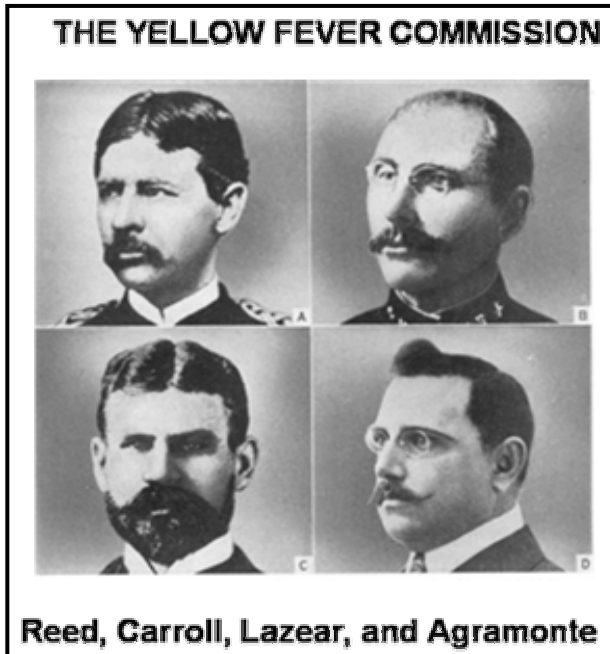
accomplishments of the second half century ... of its existence”. In addition to published works and records of the Society, I have also drawn heavily on materials in the Society Archives, which are maintained in the Rare Books and Special Collections of the Countway Library at Harvard Medical School.

To survive for a century, any organization must change and adapt. Viewed retrospectively over 100 years, our Society is seen to be a living entity with appendages that have variously grown, split, fused, and morphed in response to external realities and internal initiatives. I present here today a biographical sketch of our Society. Warned by my professional colleagues that an amateur historian is prone to write “an accurate description of what never happened,” I have done my best to prepare an account that is affectionate yet nonetheless factual and candid.

First, let us review the historical context. Our Society emerged at the confluence of two strong historical currents: one geopolitical and one scientific. The first of these important historical trends was the rise of American imperialism at the close of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. I will not attempt to resolve here whether this new American imperialism was simply a variant version of “European imperialism”, brought on by the closing of the Western frontier and the pursuit of new foreign markets, or a unique “Progressive Imperialism” that grew out of the American Progressive movement, social Darwinism and the genuine belief in “the white man’s burden”. Regardless of the deeper causes, it is no coincidence that our society was founded at the very moment when the USA first emerged as a global power. The second and nearly contemporaneous important historical current was the remarkable burst of scientific discovery at the close of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, led by Louis Pasteur, Robert Koch, and Alphonse Laveran, who proved that specific microbes are the etiologies of epidemic diseases. This period is often called the “golden age of microbiology”. Subsequent studies by Theobald Smith, Patrick Manson, and Ronald Ross continued this extraordinary scientific momentum by proving the radical concept that many pathogenic parasites grow in, and are transmitted to humans by, arthropod vectors.

After the Spanish American War of 1898, the United States suddenly found itself with a string of new possessions that almost circled the globe in the tropics, including Cuba, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, the Philippines, and various island territories in the Pacific Ocean. US military personnel sent to occupy these new tropical possessions were decimated by

infectious diseases. Nowhere was the problem more serious than in Havana, Cuba, where there were



hundreds of deaths from Yellow Fever each year. In June 1900 a US Army Yellow Fever Commission composed of four military medical research officers (Walter Reed, James Carroll, Jesse Lazear, and Aristides Agramonte,) arrived in Havana and began its now-fabled work. Over the next six months the team conducted human challenge experiments proving that yellow fever was transmitted by *Aedes aegypti* mosquitos. MAJ William Crawford Gorgas, Chief Sanitary Engineer for the US Army in Havana, assisted by Joseph LePrince, immediately turned the research findings into a vigorously applied vector control program. By the summer of 1901, less than a year after the Yellow Fever Commission began its work, the death rate from Yellow Fever permanently dropped to zero. Two members of the Yellow Fever Commission died early, Jesse Lazear of yellow fever in Havana in 1900, and Walter Reed of appendicitis in Washington in 1902. Carroll, Agramonte, Gorgas, and LePrince would all later play important roles in our society.

#### ORIGINS OF AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TROPICAL MEDICINE IN PHILADELPHIA

In the winter of 1902-03, Assistant US Army Surgeon Captain Charles F. Kieffer was invited by the Jefferson Medical College to discuss his recent medical experiences in the Philippines, which he did in a series of eight weekly lectures attended by an audience of well over one hundred. The lectures

were promptly published in the Philadelphia Medical Journal. Dr. Thomas H. Fenton, our Founder and first President, was sufficiently stimulated by Captain Kieffer's lectures to write a letter to a number of prominent Philadelphia physicians in which he first raised the idea of a medical society concerned with tropical diseases. He wrote:

*"Dear Doctor, As is well known, there are many areas within the United States proper which are subtropical, and the new possessions of our country are almost wholly tropical. This would seem to make it necessary that the profession should give closer attention, perhaps, to what are considered tropical diseases. It will certainly be admitted that in a center of medical education like Philadelphia, there should be opportunity afforded for this kind of study. This view is confirmed by the recent establishment in this city of a series of lectures on "tropical diseases". I have thought for a long time that the existence of a society, at the meetings of which these topics would be considered, would perhaps act as a stimulus to the promotion of these studies, in favor the development and increase of our knowledge in this particular direction. All to whom I have spoken are heartily in accord with the proposal, and seem, furthermore, willing to join such an organization. The society need not be a large one nor involved, by frequent meetings, too much tax upon the time of the busy practitioner. If you are inclined favorably to the view expressed, I shall be glad to have you meet a few positions at my house Monday evening, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 8:15, for the purpose of discussing the expediency of forming such a society.*

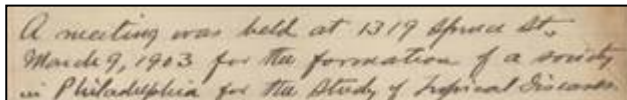
*Very truly yours, Thomas H. Fenton"*

Participants at this February 2, 1903 informal meeting, along with other respondents to this letter, were then invited by Fenton (letter, dated February 28, 1903) to a formal organizing meeting:

*"Dear Doctor, At an informal meeting held Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>, the question of forming in this city a society for the study of Tropical Diseases was favorably considered. The consensus of opinion of those present and of a number who had sent letters in response to the call, was, that the time is right for the formation of such a society in Philadelphia, somewhat on the following lines. The membership should be somewhat restricted in numbers and should*

*include a list of honorary and corresponding members, the dues should be merely nominal and the number of meetings confined to three or four yearly. If you are inclined favorably to this view, the undersigned Committee will be glad to have you attend a meeting for further consideration of the subject on one day, March 9, at 8:30 PM, at 1319 Spruce Street.*  
*Thomas H. Fenton, Secretary*

The first entry in the Minutes Book of the American Society of Tropical Medicine begins thusly:



*"A meeting was held at 1319 Spruce St., March 9, 1903, for the formation of a society in Philadelphia for the study of tropical diseases."*

The entry later goes on:

*"Dr. Fenton explained that the subject of forming a society of Tropical Medicine had been under consideration for some months, and that the committee had been encouraged by personal and written communications from prominent members of the profession in Philadelphia to call the present meeting."*

*"Dr. Kieffer, from the standpoint of personal experience in the Philippines, spoke strongly of the urgent need for the existence of such a society."*

The following slate of Officers was nominated and approved:

Thomas H. Fenton, President  
 James C. Wilson, Vice President  
 James M. Anders, Vice President  
 Joseph McFarland, Secretary  
 No nomination, Assistant Secretary\*  
 E.B. Gleason, Treasurer  
 John Shoemaker, Councilor  
 Judson Daland, Councilor  
 Roland Curtin, Councilor  
 Orville Horwitz, Councilor  
 Hobart A. Hare, Councilor  
 \* position soon filled by John M. Swan

Plans were discussed for Captain Kieffer to "deliver an address upon some subject in Tropical Medicine, if the Council deems it advisable, at a

general meeting to be held as soon as expedient," (subsequent minute entries do not confirm that the Council did ever deem such an address advisable). The last major item of business was selection of a name for the new society. The minutes read thusly:

*"On motion it was voted that the society be known as the Society of Tropical Medicine of Philadelphia."*

At the first meeting of the Council, held on March 21, 1903 (12 days later) at the Art Club in Philadelphia, this decision was reconsidered.

*"Dr. Gleason [ an ENT specialist ] moved that the society be known as the American Society for Tropical Medicine. Dr. Daland seconded the motion. Dr. Curtin spoke in favor of the motion and said that the by-laws should be adopted to conform to the national idea. After remarks by Drs. Anders, Wilson, Fenton, Horwitz, and Curtin the motion was carried."*

On May 25, 1903 a charter was adopted which incorporated the American Society of Tropical Medicine in the County of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania. Twenty-eight persons, all male physicians, signed the charter. Rather remarkably, none of these charter members of the ASTM, including the officers, had any experience in the field of tropical medicine. Their medical specialties were distributed as follows: 10 internists, 4 neurologists, 3 ophthalmologists, 3 general practitioners, 2 pathologists, 2 dermatologists, 2 ear, nose, and throat specialists, 1 urologist, and 1 surgeon.

The following Honorary Members were elected on December 7, 1903: William H. Forwood (Surgeon General, US Army), P.M. Rixey (Surgeon General, US Navy), M.J. Rosenau, Charles W. Stiles, W.C. Gorgas, James Carroll, D.E. Salmon, Aristides Agramonte, John Guiteras, Patrick Manson, George H. Nuttall, Alphonse Laveran, Robert Koch, George Lamb, A. Calmette, William Murrell, C.F. Martin, William H. Welch, George M. Sternberg, Ralph Stockton, Charles D.F. Philips, and Frederick Montizambert.

The first public meeting of the new ASTM was held at the University of Pennsylvania on January 9, 1904, and featured an address by Yellow Fever Commission veteran James Carroll, Surgeon, US Army, on "The Etiology of Yellow Fever."

The First Annual Meeting of the ASTM was held on March 21, 1904, in the Lower Hall of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia (at 13<sup>th</sup> and Locust, four blocks from our meeting today). The meeting consisted largely of exhibits of pathological materials, including leprosy, liver abscess, amebic and bacillary dysentery, a duodenum with “*uncinariae in situ*,” and *Leishmania donovani* blood films sent by Sir Patrick Manson.



College of Physicians of Philadelphia

## PHILADELPHIA FOUNDERS OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TROPICAL MEDICINE

### First President, Thomas H. Fenton

The organizing founder and First President of the ASTM, Dr. Thomas Fenton, was born in Philadelphia on May 28, 1856. He attended the Episcopal Academy, and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in 1877. He became a leading ophthalmologist with appointments at several Philadelphia hospitals. As a young man, Fenton was an avid rower, and in 1887 was a delegate from the Athletic Club of



the Schuylkill Navy to a meeting in New York to form what is now the Amateur Athletic Union. Interested in civic affairs, he served for several years as a director of the Philadelphia public schools. A life-long member of the College of Physicians, he served as Chairman of its Hall Committee for over 20 years. He had a large private practice. He is known to have published only a single paper, on “Hygiene in the Philadelphia Schools,” but it is reported (by Dr B. Alex Randall, in his Memoir of Thomas H. Fenton, M.D.) that he gave many unpublished presentations at meetings of the College. An accomplished musician, he was a member and president of the Orpheus Chorus. He was married to Lizzie Spear Remak, with whom he

had two daughters and a son. In 1921 he was mugged and shot, the bullet lodging in his mastoid, but he recovered fully save for a loss of hearing. He died on February 23, 1929, at the age of 72.

Thomas Fenton was an active member of the Art Club, which he served for years as secretary and later President. It was probably through the Art Club that he met Thomas Cowperthwait Eakins (1844-1916), widely considered the leading American portrait artist of the era. In 1905, Eakins painted a 60” x 30” formal oil on canvas portrait of Thomas Fenton that now hangs in the Delaware Art Museum in Wilmington (see cover page of this manuscript). The portrait depicts Fenton standing, arms crossed, in a formal long coat. The lower half of the painting is unfinished; according to Fenton’s daughter Beatrice, he was too busy to continue the many sittings that Eakins’ painstaking method required. Beatrice was also the subject for an Eakins portrait; a painting of her entitled “The Coral Necklace” is on display at the Butler Institute of American Art in Youngstown, Ohio. Notes in the Delaware Art Museum files record that, *“neither the art patron Thomas Fenton nor his art student daughter were sufficiently impressed with Eakins’ likenesses of them to secure them for their household. According to Beatrice Fenton, the family did not approve of her portrait. Moreover, her father considered his likeness unacceptable because it had never been completed.”* Both paintings were retained by Eakins and later sold by his estate. Beatrice Fenton (1887-1983) went on to become an accomplished sculpturer; some of her bronze statues grace public venues in Philadelphia, including the Pan with Sundial at Penn’s Paley Library (east of the main entrance), and the Evelyn Taylor Price Sundial on Rittenhouse Square (SW corner of 18<sup>th</sup> and Walnut). Beatrice also sculpted a bust of her father, which unfortunately thus far I have not been able to locate.

### Second President, Roland H. Curtin



The second President of the American Society of Tropical Medicine was Roland Gideon Curtin, a respected Philadelphia internist. Curtin, a second generation Irish-American, was born in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania on

October 29, 1839. He received his medical degree

from the University of Pennsylvania in 1866 and did a residency at Philadelphia General Hospital. For a short time he worked as an Assistant Geologist in the Rocky Mountains. On return to Philadelphia, he continued to work and teach simultaneously in both medicine and geology, and in 1871 he received his second degree, a PhD in Science Auxiliary to Medicine. He married Julia Taylor with whom he had two children. Considered to be a doctor's doctor, he had a large practice, was a frequent consultant, and held appointments at several hospitals. Curtin was a regular participant at the Pan-American Medical Congresses in Washington, Havana, Mexico City, and Panama. He was a President of the American Climatological Society. He published several scientific papers and books. His scientific interests were eclectic; in addition to traditional medical subjects some of his papers were on "A Study of Ancient and Modern Secret Medical Fraternities," "The Superstitions of Precious Stones," and "A History of Body-snatching in the United States." He died on March 14, 1913, at the age of 73.

In 1905, Curtin was a member of the US delegation to the Pan-American Medical Congress in Panama, where he saw first hand the problems of yellow fever and malaria in the Canal Zone, and met COL Gorgas. On his return to the US, he published a report of his findings, and presented a paper on "Medical Conditions in Panama" at the Second Annual Meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine in Philadelphia.

Aristides Agramonte of the University of Havana, a former member of the Yellow Fever Commission, served as Vice-President of the ASTM during Curtin's tenure as President.

### Third President, James Meschter Anders



The third President of the American Society of Tropical Medicine, and last of the Philadelphians, was James M. Anders, a leading Philadelphia academic physician. He was born at Fairview Village, Pennsylvania, on July 22, 1854. He received his MD degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1877, where he later also received his PhD degree. At the Medico-Chirurgical

College Anders progressively served as Chair of Hygiene and Pediatrics and Professor of Theory and Practice of Medicine, until that institution merged with the University of Pennsylvania. At Penn, he was Professor and Chair of Medicine. He was a member of the Board of Managers of Graduate Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. In 1900 Anders was elected Chair of the Medical Section of the American Medical Association, and in 1908 was the President of the International Congress on Tuberculosis. His respected textbook Practice in Medicine was reprinted regularly for over thirty years, and his textbook Medical Diagnosis was widely read. He was concerned about the character of physicians, and in his lecture to the Penn graduating class of 1904 implored "It is hoped that the long and intimate association with your teachers may exert a benign and uplifting influence upon conduct and character, and encourage you to strive for the higher professional ideals, and help you to avoid meanness, intrigue, cowardice, jealousy, and backbiting." In 1927 over five hundred of his colleagues and friends attended a testimonial dinner in honor of his Fiftieth Anniversary in the practice of medicine. He died on August 29, 1936, at the age of 82. In his private life Professor Anders wrote poetry; in 1934 he was convinced by his friends to publish his collected works under the title Meditations in Verse. Here is a brief sample.

*"Taint not, ye sons, the priceless gift  
Of truth, a heritage  
That shall your fellowmen uplift.  
'Tis yours to light the stage;  
With keener sense, devices new,  
New truths shall ever break on view.*

James M. Anders,  
*Aesculapius to His Sons*

### TRANSITION TO A NATIONAL SOCIETY

Although its first three presidents were all Philadelphians (each held office for a term of two years), the young American Society of Tropical Medicine quickly transitioned to a national society. Society Annual Meetings for 1904 thru 1906 were held in Philadelphia, but after that the Annual Meetings were held in New York (Academy of Medicine, 1907), Baltimore (Johns Hopkins Hospital, 1908), and Washington DC (United States Naval Medical School, 1909).

1908 marked an important turning point for the ASTM: the election of Clara Southmayd Ludlow, Ph.D., to active membership, the first woman and first

non-physician scientist member. Clara Ludlow was born in 1852 in Easton, Pennsylvania. As a young woman she graduated from the prestigious New England Conservatory of Music (1877) and began a career in piano and singing. In 1897, at age 45, she enrolled at the then all-male Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College where she studied mosquitoes and obtained a Master of Science and Botany. After graduation she visited her brother, an Army Officer stationed in Manila, and while there began her seminal studies on the taxonomy of mosquito vectors of disease. Back in the United States, she obtained an appointment at the Army Medical Museum in Washington, DC, and simultaneously worked toward her PhD at George Washington University. Her long association with the Army was recognized by her burial in Arlington National Cemetery.

In 1908 the ASTM actively sought a more visible national presence. At a Council meeting on February 27, 1908 (at which only five members - Anders, Fenton, Daland, McFarland, and Swan – were present) the minutes record that:

*“After discussion on the future of the Society the Secretary was authorized to invite Dr. W.C. Gorgas asking him to resign from Honorary Membership so that he might be elected an active member in Baltimore on March 28<sup>th</sup> and president of the Society in 1909.”*

William Crawford Gorgas presided at the Seventh Annual Meeting in St. Louis (at the St. Louis University Medical School). The ASTM meeting was held there in conjunction with the meeting of the American Medical Association, of which Gorgas was serving as immediate past-President.

#### Fourth President, William Crawford Gorgas

William Crawford Gorgas was born on October 3, 1854, in Mobile, Alabama, the son of the Confederate



Chief of Ordnance during the Civil War. Interestingly, at the birth his mother was attended by Dr. Josiah Nott, an early proponent of the theory that mosquitoes transmitted yellow fever who was ridiculed for his beliefs,

and later as a young physician, Gorgas devoted much attention to Nott's work. After graduation from Bellvue Medical College, he entered the US Army and contracted yellow fever while stationed at Fort Brown, near Brownsville, Texas. In part because he was now immune to yellow fever, in 1898 he was appointed sanitary officer for the City of Havana. There he and Walter Reed became warm personal friends, and when the epochal studies of the Yellow Fever Commission proved that *Stegomyia* mosquitoes (*Aedes aegypti*) were the vector, Gorgas was quick to apply the newfound knowledge.

On May 22, 1901, Gorgas wrote to Reed, then back in Washington, DC:

*“The fever situation is all that could be desired, I think. The last death from yellow fever occurred on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Since that time we have had a case April 21<sup>st</sup>, another on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. We had no more*

*cases then till May 6th, when we had one; and on May 7 three more. Since that time, two weeks, we have had no more; and, as the conditions, as far as non-immunes are concerned, seem more favorable for the spread of yellow fever, I am in high fettle.”*



Screening around yellow fever patient hospital bed in the Canal

Gorgas began to achieve a measure of celebrity for his success. By special act of the US Congress he was promoted from Major to Colonel. In late 1902, when it became clear that the US would build a canal in the newly independent Republic of Panama, he was ordered back to Washington to begin to prepare for work there. In June 1904 Gorgas sailed for Panama accompanied by Joseph L. Le Prince, set to solving the technical, logistic, and bureaucratic problems surrounding vector control in the Canal Zone. On December 8, 1905, 8:15 PM, at a public meeting of the young ASTM held in the Clinical Amphitheater of the Medico-Chiurgical College in Philadelphia, Gorgas delivered an address entitled “Mosquito Work in Relation to Yellow Fever on the Isthmus of Panama.” The address was published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Gorgas' stunning success in preventive medicine in the Canal Zone is an oft-told tale and will not be recounted here. However, the difficulty of the task is sometimes not fully appreciated. He voiced his frustrations in his 1910 ASTM Presidential Address entitled "The Cost of Sanitation on the Isthmus of Panama":

*"Besides performing such functions as the Health Department of New York performs, the Sanitary Department of the Isthmus [ headed by Gorgas ] cares for all the sick, both in the hospitals and dispensaries, administers the national quarantine, does the street cleaning and garbage collecting, reclaims waste lands, pays the salaries of some fifteen ministers of the gospel, cares for all the cemeteries, does a general undertaking and embalming business for some eighty thousand people, and besides all this, pays directly to the Engineering Department about two hundred thousand dollars per year... Considering our average population for the past five years as one hundred thousand, we have an appropriation for sanitation during the same period averaging \$3.88 per capita per year."*

In 1914 only a few months before the outbreak of World War I, Gorgas was appointed Surgeon General of the US Army, in which capacity he led the US medical mobilization. He retired in 1919, and died on July 2, 1920, at the age of 65.

Subsequent early presidents of the ASTM were the leading academicians and uniformed officers of the era: William S. Thayer (Johns Hopkins), Joseph F. White (US Public Health Service), Edward R. Stitt (US Navy), Richard P. Strong (Harvard), Charles F. Craig (US Army), and Milton J. Rosenau (Harvard), Bailey K. Ashford (US Army), Charles C. Bass (Tulane). The continuing complete listing is published elsewhere by the Society.

## INSTITUTIONAL DOLDRUMS AND RECOVERY

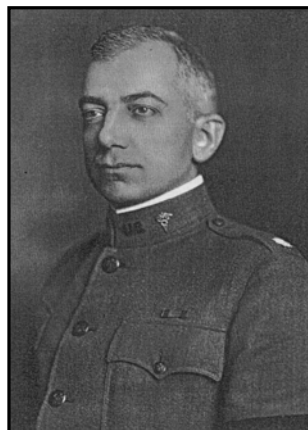
However, by 1920 the future of the ASTM was uncertain. An initial effort to launch a society journal had failed (see below); in 1915, due to a press of obligations the Society president was unable to attend the annual meeting; and in 1918 the influenza pandemic forced cancellation of the annual meeting. The last hand-written entries in the Society Minutes Book were made in 1917. Likely reasons for the malaise were a drop in the priority of tropical medicine during the Great War in Europe and competing priorities for the time and attention of the

leaders of national stature. The Report of the Secretary for 1919-1920 blandly records that:

*"Shortly after entering upon his incumbency, the President sent a circular letter to the membership, asking for their full cooperation in the building up of the Society, and at the same time suggesting that those members not in full sympathy with the purposes of the Society should resign."*

Happily for the future of the Society, most members rallied to the call, and only three members resigned. Later that year, in his ASTM Presidential Address, Henry Nichols reflected on the state of the Society:

*"A year ago I was told that the prognosis was bad. I began to feel that my only function might be to conduct a post-mortem, but it is evident that the patient is making a good recovery from the depressing influence of war and pestilence .... It may well be asked why a Society which has had among its recent presidents such leaders as Gorgas ...Ashford, and Bass should ever be thought to be in a precarious condition. The answer is two-fold: First, the nature of our work; second the prevailing state of the national morale."*



Henry James Nichols, 1<sup>st</sup>  
Editor of the Am J Trop Med

Nichols' disappointment is understandable. Only a few weeks earlier the US Senate had rejected the treaty which would have made the US a member of the League of Nations, and with it any hopes for Woodrow Wilson's progressive internationalism. Tropical medicine and international health were not to be national priorities.

Nonetheless, Nichols understood that a publication could promote the visibility and cohesion needed to sustain the Society, and led the Society to publish the American Journal of Tropical Medicine, a bimonthly, starting in January 1921. Thenceforth membership in the Society grew slowly but continuously, from 107 members in 1921 to 516

members in 1941 at the start of the Second World War.

During the WWII, membership more than doubled to 1213 members in 1944, at which time almost half of all Society members were in the Armed Forces. At the close of the war, on Nov 6, 1946 in Miami, Society President Brigadier General James S. Simmons, Dean of the Harvard School of Public Health, delivered a “day-night double header” of two brilliantly juxtaposed lectures, one entitled “Tropical Medicine and Challenge of Global War” and the other “Tropical Medicine and the Challenge of Global Peace.” He said:

*“The American people are now confronted with the question as to how to meet this challenge of peace ... Any level-headed person knows that ...strength is essential to security. Therefore, the United States must maintain the armaments required for its protection and must continue to develop the health of all its citizens. The advances already made in the nation’s health program must be extended, both for humanitarian purposes and because they are essential to our national security.”*

## ORIGINS OF THE NATIONAL MALARIA SOCIETY

The discovery, by Sir Ronald Ross in India in August 1897, that particular species of mosquitoes were the vectors of malaria, permitted a sound epidemiological approach to control of the disease. Anti-mosquito programs, including utilization of petroleum oil, drainage, filling, screening, etc, were begun in the malarious areas of the southern United States. Perhaps equally important, governmental authorities began to realize that the disease was preventable. The Second-Pan American Scientific Congress, held in Washington, DC, adopted the following resolution on January 7, 1916:

*“That all American countries inaugurate a well-considered plan of malaria eradication and control based upon the recognition of the principles that the disease is preventable to a much greater degree than has thus far been achieved, and that the education of the public in the elementary facts of Malaria is of the first order of importance to the country’s concern.”*

The proponent of this resolution at the Congress, Frederick L. Hoffman of the Prudential Insurance Company, then set about to make this

recommendation operational in the United States. US Public Health Service Surgeon General Rupert Blue, working with Hoffman, brought together distinguished physicians, sanitarians, and scientists to the organizational meeting of the National Malaria Committee held on May 10, 1916, in Washington, DC. Many of the 29 charter members of the National Malaria Committee (Gorgas, Craig, Bass, Stitt, Swan, Thayer, Rosenau, LePrince,) were members of the ASTM, while most of the other committee members were state and federal health officials. The purposes of the new organization were decided to be to stimulate interest in malaria, to serve as a medium through which societies and individuals might focus on the disease, and to coordinate the efforts of societies and individuals with the activities of federal, state, and local authorities.

Hoffman followed up on this organizational meeting with an address on November 16, 1916 to a joint session of the sections on Medicine and Public Health of the Southern Medical Association, entitled “A Plea for a National Committee on the Eradication of Malaria,” in which he notes that “In the absence of trustworthy vital statistics for all of the Southern States, including the rural areas, it is impossible to estimate with accuracy the probable mortality and morbidity for malarial diseases.” Nonetheless, the paper goes on to present a thoughtful overview of the available data on the impact of malaria in the USA. Some might assume that Hoffman was simply taking terminological liberties when he spoke of “malaria eradication,” but careful reading of Hoffman’s papers convinces that reader that he had in mind nothing less than total elimination of the disease from the United States. In a report before the New Jersey Mosquito Extermination Association in 1918, Hoffman makes this position clear:

*“... no matter how many different methods of malaria prophylaxis may be suggested or advocated, in its final analysis any effort must fail to rid the community of malaria if the Anopheles mosquitoes are not entirely done away with. You may sterilize your carriers; you may practice quinine prophylaxis; you may screen your houses; you may oil your ponds; you may spend hundreds of thousands of dollars for larvicides, however effective, but if you do not dry up the breeding pools, if you do not drain the country, if you do not conform to the principles of Ross, that there must be no stagnant water, you will have the mosquitoes, and as long as you have the Anopheles you will have malaria.”*

Thus, the National Malaria Committee was originally oriented by Hoffman towards eradication.

The National Malaria Committee met annually, jointly with the Southern Medical Association, at locations around the southeastern US.

## FOUNDER OF THE NATIONAL MALARIA COMMITTEE, FREDERICK L. HOFFMAN

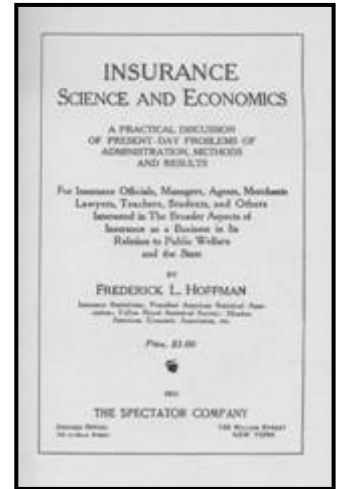
Frederick L. Hoffman, Chief Statistician for the Prudential Insurance Company and founder of the National Malaria Committee, was regarded as the Dean of American statisticians of his time. Although almost unknown today, he was a prolific and very visible public figure during the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



Hoffman was born on May 2, 1865, in Varel (Duchy of Oldenburg), German. His father died of tuberculosis when Hoffman was 10, and

at 19 he set sail from Bremerhaven to New York, one of almost 200,000 German immigrants to the United States in 1884. He immediately traveled to Cleveland where he was provided menial work and lodging by family friends. During this time he learned English, voraciously reading books from the library. He briefly sat in on classes at Adelbert College and Western Reserve Medical School until it was discovered that he was not registered as a student and he was unceremoniously thrown out. In 1887 and 1888 he traveled throughout the southern United States, taking odd jobs to sustain himself. In 1888 he traveled to Boston where he took an entry level job with the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company collecting premiums on industrial insurance policies, and in 1890 he took a position with the Life Insurance Company of Virginia, first in Richmond then in Newport News. As part of duties there, he collected every imaginable, or at least available, data on the health of African-Americans. His first important article was "Vital Statistics of the Negro." Officials at Prudential were impressed by the work, and hired him to work in Newark, New Jersey.

Hoffman went on to have an extraordinarily productive career in which he studied all manner of morbidity and mortality, largely in the American South. He wrote and published over 30 books and 1200 articles. His topics reveal an exceptional range of interests: accidents, tornados, suicide, homicide, cancer, pneumoconiosis, and malaria. A chain smoker himself, he is credited with the finding that cancer of the oropharynx is associated with tobacco, and with the association of pulmonary diseases and asbestos.



He was a founder of the American Cancer Society and a President of the American Statistical Association. Hoffman's 1911 textbook Insurance: Science and Economics displays his broad understanding of statistics, epidemiology, and related issues. He was a good friend of William Gorgas' and when he died Hoffman wrote a poem in Memoriam dedicated to Gorgas that was published in the Southern Medical Journal. The final stanza is reproduced here:

*We honored you while living  
As a leader of our age,  
And stainless is your record  
As writ on history's page;  
We mourn your loss and miss your ways,  
Your counsel wise and kind,  
And lovingly we think of you  
As "The Servant of Mankind."*

Hoffman was also on close terms with Ronald Ross (in 1919, Ross loaned Hoffman's daughter Frances money to get out of an awkward situation in London), as well as other influential physicians and scientists.

In his career Hoffman wrote twenty four articles and two books on malaria. The books, entitled The Malaria Problem in Peace and War (1918) and Malaria Problems (1928), are olympian in their perspectives. Hoffman served as the Honorary Chairman of the National Malaria Committee for many years, and in 1944 he was elected Honorary President of the new National Malaria Society. He died on February 26, 1946, at the age of 80.

Hoffman's first major book, entitled "The Race Traits and Tendencies of the American Negro," published in 1896, is now seen controversial. In it, Hoffman offered up data in support of the racist views of the era (remember that 1896 was the year that the US Supreme Court upheld that legality of "separate but equal" segregation in Plessy v. Ferguson). Hoffman's main thesis, that the black race would die out due to genetically determined high mortality rates, has since been thoroughly discredited, and Hoffman himself later in life renounced this position. At the time the work was published by the prestigious American Economic Association and distributed by the major publishing houses.

### **TRANSITION OF THE NATIONAL MALARIA COMMITTEE INTO THE NATIONAL MALARIA SOCIETY**

Starting with the original 29 charter members, the National Malaria Committee grew steadily until 1941 when there were 204 active members. Its leadership included men whose names are still known and revered, including Henry Rose Carter, Joseph A. LePrince, and Charles F. Craig. One of the main accomplishments of the Committee was the publication and dissemination of the teaching syllabus "Malaria Control for Engineers." In the 1930's State Health Departments in the southeastern states established separate malaria units, and funding and manpower became available under the public works programs for elimination of anopheline breeding sites. In 1941 the Committee decided to change its name to the National Malaria Society and to begin to publish its proceedings and submitted papers in a new journal: the Journal of the National Malaria Society (previously the proceedings of the annual meeting of the committee had been published in the Southern Medical Journal). Although the prime focus of the National Malaria Committee and the new Society had been domestic, on malaria within the United States, the outbreak of a new global war served to accentuate interest in malaria control. Shortly after the war membership had grown to over 500.

By 1947 progress on malaria control within the United States was such that the National Malaria Society President Paul F. Russell wrote

*"It is becoming evident that malaria as a public health problem within the continental United States may disappear largely within the next few years. This, of course, does not indicate that the United States will lose any of its*

*concern in the control of malaria, for it will have to maintain a program of surveillance and emergency control within its continental borders, and it is not likely that within such a brief period the interest in the control of malaria will diminish greatly in many of the tropical countries of the world in which the United States has vital interests... it would be most undesirable to countenance the possibility that our membership might disintegrate and that no adequate provision be made for retaining the professional contacts which have been so useful in the past."*

Consideration was then given to changing the name and professional focus of the National Malaria Society. Suggested names included:

- "National Society for the Study and Control of Arthropod-Borne Diseases;"
- "National Society of Malaria and other Arthropod-Borne Diseases;" and
- "National Society of Arthropod-Borne Diseases"

Alternatively, some thought that a merger or federation with the American Society of Tropical Medicine might be a better option.

### **THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF TROPICAL MEDICINE AND THE AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR TROPICAL MEDICINE**

A Conference on Tropical Medicine was held on February 5 - 6, 1934, under the auspices of the National Research Council, to consider new ways to integrate clinical and research activities in tropical diseases, to sponsor education in the field, and to develop new funding sources for these objectives. The group consisted of senior tropical medicine scientists, under the leadership of Earl B. McKinely, Dean of the George Washington University Medical School. The conference led to the establishment of the American Academy of Tropical Medicine, a non-profit corporation under the law of the District of Columbia. According to its Charter, the purposes of the Academy were:

- (1) To further the extension of knowledge for the prevention of human and animal diseases of warm climates;
- (2) To provide a current survey of work in progress in tropical medicine;
- (3) To coordinate American work in tropical medicine;

- (4) To function as a central source of information;
- (5) To cooperate with other agencies interested in maintaining and obtaining support for tropical medicine; and
- (6) To receive funds and administer them through grants-in-aid and in support of definite projects to the purposes and aims of the Academy.

The new Academy received start-up funding from the Leonard Wood Foundation. Theobald Smith was elected the first president; other officers and councilors included Charles Craig, W.W. Cort, Stanhope Bayne-Jones, Herbert C. Clark, Richard P. Strong, Alfred C. Reed, and Henry E. Meleny. The Academy accepted an invitation to affiliate with the American Association for the Advancement of Science. After some difficulties in organizing a free-standing First Annual Meeting, the Academy decided to hold subsequent meetings in conjunction with the American Society of Tropical Medicine.

Given that one of the key purposes of the Academy was to raise money and award grants for special projects in tropical medicine, an Advisory Council was formed and a committee was appointed to consider requests for financial assistance. This Council subsequently developed into the American Foundation for Tropical Medicine. Earl McKinley was the first executive director of the Foundation. His death postponed activities of the Foundation which was subsequently re-established and incorporated under the laws of the State of New York. One of the first projects supported by the Foundation was the graduate department of tropical medicine at Tulane University.

Entry of the country into WWII led to an upsurge of interest in tropical medicine and brought forward a number of corporate donors. In 1943, 23 corporations made gifts totaling \$78,100, and 13 direct grants approved by the Foundation were made to 11 institutions of medicine. Recipients included the Army Medical Museum, the Journal of Parasitology, and Universities at Tulane, Harvard, Cornell, Duke, Manitoba, Nebraska, New York University, Pennsylvania, Stanford, Texas, Tufts, and Yale. The United Fruit Company and the Firestone Plantations Company, two concerns with extensive operations in tropical regions, were among the most generous supporters of the Foundation. The programs of the Academy and of the Foundation, and the relationships between these two entities, were spelled out in a 1944 Science article by Wilbur Sawyer and Ernest Faust.

One important program of the Foundation was the administration a grant from the Firestone Plantations Company for research and treatment of African sleeping sickness in Liberia. Subsequently the Burroughs Wellcome fund provided grants to the Foundation to support research at the Liberian Institute.

Funding declined during the postwar period. In



Opening ceremony of the Liberian Institute of the American Foundation for Tropical Medicine

1952, a questionnaire was sent to members about continuation of the Academy. Fifty one of sixty-one respondents were either in favor of dissolution or amalgamation with the American Society of Tropical Medicine.

#### **AMALGAMATION: ORIGINS OF THE MODERN AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TROPICAL MEDICINE AND HYGIENE**

From their inception, the membership lists of the National Malaria Committee / Society and the American Society of Tropical Medicine had substantial overlap, and from 1931 onward the two organizations scheduled regular joint annual meetings. Over the years the possibility of a more formal association had been discussed by the officers and councilors of the two organizations. Mark F.

Boyd of the University of Miami, who had been associated with the National Malaria Committee from its start and its Secretary from 1930 through 1946, and who became editor of American Journal of Tropical Medicine in 1947, took the lead in calling for an amalgamation. On August 17, 1950 Boyd wrote a

letter to Quentin Geiman at Harvard, then the Secretary-Treasurer of the ASTM, that was circulated to the officers and councilors of the two organizations. It was a call to action:

*"... [It] appears to me that the time is propitious for the officers and members of the ASTM to approach the officers and members of the NMS to see whether an acceptable basis for amalgamation of the two organizations may be effected..."*

A joint committee was appointed to explore the possibilities, consisting of Justin Andrews, S.W. Simmons, Martin D. Young, and Jack Henderson of the NMS, and Paul Russell, Quentin M. Geiman, Donald L. Augustine, and William A. Sodeman of the ASTM (G. Robert Coatney and Hamilton Anderson were later added as alternates). The committee drafted a new constitution, laid plans for a new Journal, and considered financial and legal issues.

The amalgamation process forced both organizations to seriously examine – and defend – their own purposes and identities. This gave rise to some pointed exchanges. For example, in considering the draft constitution, Martin Young of the NMS wrote to Quentin Geiman of the ASTM on July 16, 1951:

*"I seriously doubt the wisdom of the phrase 'in the practice of tropical medicine, etc.' as defining the purpose of the Society. I believe the accepted connotation of the 'practice of medicine' has to do with the clinical practice of medicine and that this immediately excludes all except M.D.'s. If my reasoning is correct, then the non-medical men will consider that they are either not members of the society on an equal basis or that they are more or less members by sufferance.*

*Under these conditions, I think that the new society will not be an amalgamation of the two parent societies but will simply be a continuation of the American Society of Tropical Medicine under a new name."*

## CONTROVERSY OVER THE NAME OF THE NEW SOCIETY

Selection of the name for the new amalgamated society proved to be the focal point for a clash of identities. Members of the NMS, most of whom were engineers and sanitarians concerned with operational vector control, were clearly unhappy with the unqualified term "Tropical Medicine." An early draft of the constitution listed a variety of options for a new name for the amalgamated society:

September 1, 1951

The semi-final copy of the Constitution and By-Laws for the amalgamated American Society of Tropical Medicine and Public Health is approved.

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Member

---

July 30, 1951

The semi-final copy of the Constitution and By-Laws for the amalgamated American Society of Tropical Medicine and Public Health is approved. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Tropical Medicine News should be continued in its present form. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Tropical Medicine News should be incorporated and published in the Journal. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Tropical Medicine News should be discontinued. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Member

Photographs of ballots sent to members of the ASTM and the NMS for the amalgamation vote

- *The American Society (Association) of Tropical Medicine (Diseases) and Public Health*
- *American Society of Tropical and Parasitic Diseases*
- *American Society of Tropical Diseases and Hygiene*
- *American Society of Tropical Diseases (Medicine) (Health) and Sanitation*

When amalgamation was put to a vote of the two societies in mid-1951, the ballots sent to members of both societies (and semi-final draft of the Constitution and By-Laws) listed the name of the new organization as

- *The American Society of Tropical Medicine and Public Health*

Both memberships approved the amalgamation. However, the issue of the name for the new Society was not yet resolved, for several influential members of the former NMS refused to accept the proposed name. On October 31, 1951, G. Robert Coatney at the National Institutes of Health, Editor of the Journal of the National Malaria Society, wrote a letter to S.W. Simmons, Secretary-Treasurer of that Society. The letter, which was co-signed by 13 of his colleagues, read as follows:



G. Robert Coatney  
Editor, J Natl Mal Soc

*"Dear Sam,*

*We understand that there have been very few expressions of opinion from the membership of the Society regarding the name of the organization after amalgamation with the American Society of Tropical Medicine.*

*We have had considerable discussion about the point here, and are in general agreement that the proper name for the Society should be: The American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.*

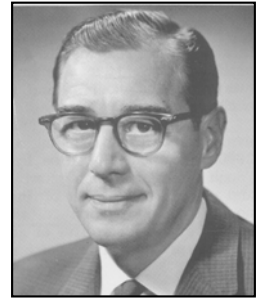
*We object strenuously to such titles as Tropical Public Health or Tropical Medicine and Public Health. We feel that the term Hygiene encompasses all those aspects of public health which are not included in the term "medicine" and that there is ample precedent for such a name as we propose, such as the eminent British Journal."*

Lest there be any ambiguity in the letter, Coatney appended a hand-written note to it:

**"Sam, Just to let you know that we are not going to take this lying down. Bob"**

An identically worded letter was sent on that same day to Quentin Geiman of the ASTM by D. Jane Taylor from the NIH on the letterhead of the Tropical Medicine News, co-signed by Leon Jacobs and 12 other colleagues. Five persons were co-signatories to both Coatney's letter to Simmons and Taylor's letter to Geiman (Coatney, Wright, Tomlinson, Wake, and Haas).

Although further written records are lacking, it is evident that diplomacy prevailed, for at the organizational meeting in Chicago 17 days later (November 17, 1951) the new "American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene" was established, with Martin D. Young as its first President.



Martin Young, 1<sup>st</sup> President,  
Am Soc Trop Med & Hyg

## SEAL OF THE NEW AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TROPICAL MEDICINE AND HYGIENE



After Quentin Geiman became Secretary – Treasurer of the amalgamated ASTMH, one of his first tasks was to develop a Seal for the new Society. He commissioned Rudolph Ruzicka of Concord, Massachusetts to sketch some possible designs.

Ruzicka responded with three options. ASTM councilor and co-author of the first "Health Hints for the Tropics" Colonel Tom Whayne (Chief of the Preventive Medicine Division in the Office of the Army Surgeon General) offered the following critique:

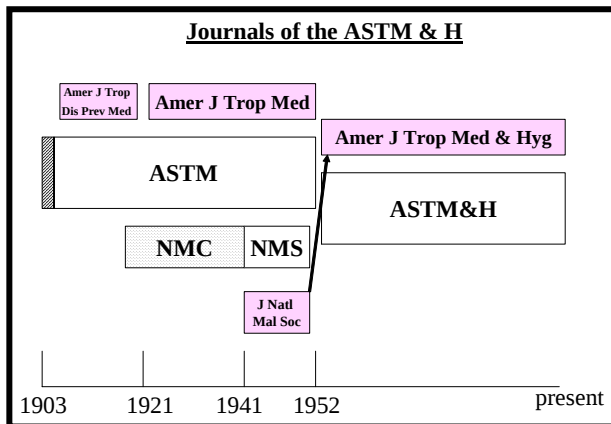
*"I am not at all impressed with any one of the three sketches submitted by Mr. Ruzicka, and believe that we should search for other ideas. I object basically to the use of the chemical retort as an emblem of research. I would favor the mosquito rather than a fly or other insect as being much more representative of tropical entomological problems, but I can find little else to recommend for seal number two. Seal number one – the pipe and flowing water suggested to me immediately the open end of a sewer rather than the implications intended. As to number three – I would characterize it as completely lacking in imagination."*

Wayne provided an alternative sketch with a mosquito and a microscope in the foreground and a tropical isle, clouds, and sun in the background. After a vote of the Council, option #2 was selected, with the recommendation that the chemist's retort be replaced by a microscope.



## PUBLICATIONS OF THE SOCIETY

In 1905 the fledgling American Society of Tropical Medicine distributed to its members and to libraries its first set of "Transactions," a bound set of reprints of papers that had been published in other journals. There was no editor per se. Many of the



papers presented at the meetings of the American Society of Tropical Medicine were first published in the Southern Medical Journal and later provided to members. On its tenth anniversary, in 1913, the Society launched its first real journal, the American Journal of Tropical Diseases and Preventive Medicine, with Creighton Wellman of Tulane University as Editor-in-Chief. The managing editors of the new journal were also the editors of the New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal, and a single office administered both publications. In the inaugural issue (July 1913) the Managing Editor Isadore Dyer introduced the new journal thusly:

*"Stray rays of genius have filtered through the past century, illuminating the darkness of speculation in the etiology of epidemic diseases of tropical nature, and the coordination of these has fixed the mosquito,*

*flea, rat, bedbug, and fly as culprits in the etiological groups.*

*We need more light, and the association of our profession in interest in these problems means the final solution of many of them. We have believed, therefore, that the time is here for some medium through which American workers might express themselves. To that end THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF TROPICAL DISEASES AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE is today presented to the profession, as the exponent of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and as the ready medium for all men who have a message of science or of note through which the field of preventive medicine may be furthered or through which the newly opened subject of tropical diseases may be elucidated ... Sapere aude! [Dare to be wise!]."*

After three straight years of financial losses, publication of the American Journal of Tropical Diseases and Preventive Medicine was discontinued and arrangements were made for incorporation of its contents into the New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal.

In 1920 outgoing ASTM President Henry J. Nichols negotiated a favorable contract with Williams and Wilkins, and the new American Journal of Tropical Medicine was started as a bimonthly publication beginning in January 1921. Nichols remained the editor for its first six years until his sudden death in 1927, at which time Charles F. Craig assumed editorship, a position he then held for a remarkable span of 20 years, until 1946.

In parallel, the proceedings of the meetings of the National Malaria Committee were regularly published in the Southern Medical Journal from 1921 until 1942, when the Committee formally became the National Malaria Society and launched the Journal of the National Malaria Society, a quarterly publication. Charles F. Craig served as the founding editor of the Journal of the National Malaria Society, from 1942 through 1944, while concurrently serving as editor of the American Journal of Tropical Medicine.

In 1952, with the amalgamation of the National Malaria Society and the American Society of Tropical Medicine, both journals were merged into the new American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

The other periodical published by our modern society, the "Tropical Medicine and Hygiene News," was first launched in 1944 by the American Society of Tropical Medicine as the "Tropical Medicine News." The NEWS was planned so as to be financially self-sufficient bi-monthly publication, supported by ads from pharmaceutical companies including Eli Lilly, Searle, and Wyeth, and others, but eventually ad revenues were insufficient and the cost was transferred to member dues. Joseph D'Antoni of Tulane University, then Secretary-Treasurer of the ASTM, also served as founding editor of the NEWS.



The cover of the NEWS was graced with an adaptation of the Seal of the ASTM. The seal itself depicts a seated Roman goddess, in a tropical setting, who extends the lamp of knowledge to the serpent, the symbol of healing. The anopheline mosquito, the scorpion, and the leaves and open flower of Cinchona ledgeriana were added to the base of the Seal, and the motto of the Society, Salus in Tropicis [Health in the Tropics] was retained. Two years later Norman H. Topping of the NIH assumed editorship of the NEWS, and all the subsequent seven editors of the NEWS have been NIH scientists. When the two societies amalgamated in 1951, the name and the society seal on the cover of the NEWS changed, but otherwise the content and format were retained.

### NAMED AWARDS OF THE SOCIETY



The ASTMH recognizes outstanding achievement in tropical medicine through the award of five medals and three lectureships.

The **Walter Reed Medal** is awarded every third year to recognize distinguished accomplishments in the field of tropical medicine. The

story of how Walter Reed led the Yellow Fever

Commission in Havana that discovered the mosquito vector of the disease is legendary and not repeated here. The first award was made to Mrs. Walter Reed and to the Rockefeller Foundation. It is of interest that in 1942 in a spirit of ecumenism, the award was made posthumously to Carlos J. Finlay - a Cuban contemporary of Walter Reed - to whom many Latin Americans credit the original idea that yellow fever was a mosquito-borne disease.

The **Bailey K. Ashford Medal** is awarded for distinguished work in tropical medicine to worker in his or her early or mid-career. Bailey K. Ashford was born on September 18, 1873 in Washington DC, and



was son of Dr. Francis Ashford, Dean of the Georgetown School of Medicine. He received his MD from Georgetown and entered the Army Medical Corps in 1897. After the Spanish American War he was sent to Puerto Rico, in command of medical department troops. In 1899, at age 26, he recognized that

hookworms caused the anemia prevalent among the rural populations and in 1904 he founded the Puerto Rico Anemia Commission to combat the disease. Except for assignments in Washington and France in WWI, he was destined to spend almost his professional career in Puerto Rico, where he died in 1934. He was instrumental in founding the School of Tropical Medicine in Puerto Rico which later transformed into the School of Medicine. The first Bailey K. Ashford medal was awarded in 1941 to Lloyd E. Rozeboom with support from Eli Lilly and Company. Initially the medal was to go only to workers under the age of 35 years, but over time the specific upper age limit was gradually increased, and eventually dropped. The medal is awarded every

year, and more than one award may be given.



The **Charles F. Craig Lectureship** is an honor bestowed on a distinguished worker in the field of tropical medicine. Charles F. Craig was born on July 4, 1872, in Danbury, Connecticut. He received his MD from Yale and

entered the Army Medical Corps in 1898, as a

pathologist and bacteriologist. After holding a variety of far-flung assignments early in his career, in 1909 he began a long association with the Army Medical School in Washington DC, rising to become Professor and Commandant of the School. He wrote ten books on malaria, parasitology, and infectious diseases, and he discovered and described *Plasmodium ovale*. In 1931 he retired from the Army to become Professor of Tropical Medicine and head of the Department at Tulane School of Medicine. He was 9<sup>th</sup> President of the American Society of Tropical Medicine (in 1915), Editor of the *American Journal of Tropical Medicine* for 20 years, from 1927 until 1946, and Editor of the *Journal of the National Malaria Society* from 1942 thru 1944. He died in 1950. The first Charles Franklin Craig Lecture was given in 1936 by Dr. Ernest Muir, on "The Control of Leprosy."

The **Joseph Augustin LePrince Medal** is awarded in recognition of outstanding work in the



field of malariology. Joseph A. LePrince was born in Leeds, England, and came to the United States at age six. He received a degree in Civil Engineering from Columbia University. In 1901 he went to Havana to work with Major Gorgas, initially on a 60 day trial contract. First as Assistant to Gorgas, and later as General Inspector of the Department of Sanitation,

he played a key role in turning the new discoveries into practical vector control measures. When Gorgas was assigned to the Canal Zone, LePrince accompanied him, where he became "Health Officer of the Strip." LePrince was the first person to control malaria by killing of mosquitoes in dwellings. After his outstanding work in the Canal Zone, LePrince began his service in the US Public Health Service in 1915. During WWI he had charge of malaria control activities around Army and Navy installations in the United States. In 1923 he went to Mexico to develop malaria control in the oil fields in that country. He was a charter member of the National Malaria Committee and a leading figure in the successful malaria eradication efforts in the southern USA. He retired from the Public Health Service in 1939, and died in 1956. The first Joseph Augustin LePrince Medal was awarded in 1951 to LePrince himself.

The **Fred L. Soper Lectureship** is an honor bestowed upon



distinguished workers in environmental control or preventive medicine. Fred Soper was born in Hutchison, Kansas on December 13, 1893. He received his MD from the University of Chicago in 1918 and a doctorate in public health from Johns Hopkins University in 1925. He began his distinguished career working with the Rockefeller Foundation on hookworm control in Brazil,

rising to become the Foundation's Representative for Brazil and Argentina. Soper headed an international group that did revolutionary work on in research and control of yellow fever in South America. He discovered and named "jungle yellow fever," the sylvatic cycle that was transmitted by species other than the urban vector *Aedes aegypti*. He also led the team that recognized the invasion of Brazil by the dangerous African malaria vector *Anopheles gambiae*, and eradicated it from the region. During WWII Soper was a civilian member of the Typhus Commission in the Middle East, and conducted pioneering studies on DDT and other louse powders. In 1947 he was elected Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, which under his leadership took on greatly expanded activities in health promotion in the hemisphere, eventually becoming the Pan American Health Organization. He served as Director for 12 years. After retirement from PAHO he became Director (1960-62) of the newly created SEATO Cholera Research Laboratory in Dacca, Bangladesh. He died on 1977. At its annual meeting in Chicago in 1978, the ASTMH Council endorsed a proposal from the Gorgas Memorial Institute that the Society and the Institute jointly establish and support an annual Fred L. Soper Lectureship on environmental control and preventive medicine. The first Soper Lecture was given by Thomas A. Weller in 1978, as part of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Gorgas Memorial Laboratory, and subsequent lectures were given at the Annual Meeting of the ASTMH.

The **Commemorative Fund Lectureship** is an honor bestowed upon an outstanding scientist in tropical medicine from the developing world. The Commemorative Fund was established by a bequest of the Firestone Foundation and increased by contributions from the membership.

The **Donald Mackay Medal** is awarded annually for outstanding work in tropical health, especially relating to improvements in the health of rural or urban workers in the tropics. Preference is given to suitable medically qualified individuals. Dr. Donald MacKay, who was Deputy Director of the Ross



Institute at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, died in 1981 after many years of outstanding work in tropical occupational health, especially on the tea

plantations of South Asia. He was an outstanding physician, brilliant teacher, and a man of the greatest integrity and commitment. The regulations for the award of the Donald Mackay Medal have been agreed by the Trustees of the Mackay Memorial Fund and the Councils of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene and the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. The medal is awarded annually with the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene selecting awardees in even-numbered years and the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene selecting recipients in odd-numbered years. The Donald MacKay Medal was first awarded in 1990 to Ralph M. Henderson.

The **Ben Kean Medal** is awarded to a clinician or educator whose dedication to clinical tropical medicine and impact on the training of students, fellows and/or practitioners of tropical medicine is in keeping with the tradition established by Dr. Kean. Ben Kean was a renowned Clinical Professor of Tropical Medicine and Professor of Public Health at Cornell. The medal is awarded every third year. The medal was first awarded in 1994 to Mrs. Ben Kean (Collette), and the first Society member recipient was Franklin A. Neva in 1995.



**Other Awards:** In addition, two medals were awarded by the American Academy of Tropical Medicine in the 1930's and 1940's (the Theobald Smith Medal and the Richard Strong Medal), but these were discontinued when the Academy merged with Society. Remarkably, the names of some of the most prominent early leaders of our Society (or more correctly, its progenitor societies) are not associated

with any Society awards: Fenton, Hoffman, Gorgas, and Ludlow.

## OTHER DISTINGUISHED SOCIETY MEMBERS

During its 1<sup>st</sup> century of existence, three ASTMH members were awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine: Max Theiler in 1951 for the development of vaccines against yellow fever; Thomas H. Weller in 1954 for the growth of poliomyelitis virus in tissue culture; and D. Carleton



Max Theiler Tom Weller Carleton Gaidusek Albert Sabin

Gajdusek in 1976 for his work on Kuru. All three presented their work at Society meetings and published papers in the JOURNAL. In addition, Tom Weller served an editorial board member, a councilor and President (1964). Another prominent Society member was Albert Sabin, who also served as an editorial board member and councilor.

## CONCLUSION

In this address I have attempted to sketch an outline of the first century of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, with an emphasis on the early events of our history. We can look back with pride on the first century of our existence. From its club-like origins at Thomas Fenton's office at 1319 Spruce Street here in Philadelphia, the Society has grown remarkably in size, vitality, and influence. It is my sincere hope that this modest historical sketch will serve to stimulate the membership to think a bit about future of our Society and mission. What will be the state of global health one hundred years from now, in 2103, when our Society celebrates its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary? Will the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene continue to play a leading role in the quest to bring health to all the earth's citizens? Our Society has proven itself to be a powerful instrument in this quest in the first century of its existence; I am confident that it will continue to be so in its next .

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## DEDICATED LEADERS OF THE SOCIETY

While the names of the Society Presidents are dutifully listed in various Society publications, there is nowhere to be found a comparable listing of the other important leaders of the Society such as the Secretary-Treasurers, the Editors of the JOURNAL, the Editors of the NEWS, and the Scientific Program Chairs. This deficiency is remedied here, in the following tables. Certain persons on these listings deserve special recognition for their extraordinary service to the Society: John Swan and Peter Weller, who served as Secretary-Treasurers for 12 years and 11 years, respectively; Charles Craig and Paul Beaver, who served as Editors of the JOURNAL for 20 years and 25 years, respectively; and Colvin Gibson and Karl Western, who served as Editors of the NEWS for 21 years and 13 years, respectively. The very existence of the Society for a century is due in large measure to the selfless dedication of loyal members such as these.

### Secretary – Treasurers of the ASTM / ASTM&H

|                   | Name                    | Location                            | Years     | Dur |
|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----|
| <b>ASTM</b>       |                         |                                     |           |     |
| 1                 | Joseph P. McFarland     | Philadelphia, Pennsylvania          | 1903-06   | 4   |
| 2                 | John M. Swan            | Rochester, New York                 | 1907-18   | 12  |
| 3                 | Sidney K. Simon         | New Orleans, Louisiana (Tulane)     | 1919-21   | 3   |
| 4                 | Brayton H. Ransom       | Washington, DC (Bur Animal Indust)  | 1922-24   | 3   |
| 5                 | Benjamin Schwartz       | Washington, DC (Bur Animal Indust)  | 1925-28   | n/a |
| 6                 | E. Peterson             | Washington, DC (Navy Med School)    | 1929      | 1   |
| 5a                | Benjamin Schwartz       | Washington, DC (Bur Animal Indust)  | 1930-31   | 6   |
| 7                 | Henry E. Meleney        | Nashville, Tennessee (Vanderbilt)   | 1932-34   | 3   |
| 8                 | Alfred C. Reed          | San Francisco, California (UCSF)    | 1935      | 1   |
| 9                 | Paul Hudson             | Columbus, Ohio (Ohio State)         | 1936-37   | 2   |
| 10                | E. Harold Hinman        | Wilson Dam, Alabama (Tenn Val Auth) | 1938-42   | 5   |
| 11                | Joseph S. D'Antoni      | New Orleans, Louisiana (Tulane)     | 1943-45   | 3   |
| 12                | N. H. Topping           | Bethesda, Maryland (NIH)            | 1946-47   | 2   |
| 13                | Frederick J. Brady      | Bethesda, Maryland (NIH)            | 1948-49   | 2   |
| 14                | Quentin M. Geiman       | Boston, Massachusetts (Harvard)     | 1950-51   | n/a |
| <b>ASTM&amp;H</b> |                         |                                     |           |     |
| 14 (cont)         | Quentin M. Geiman       | Boston, Massachusetts (Harvard)     | 1952-53   | 4   |
| 15                | John E. Larsh           | Chapel Hill, North Carolina (UNC)   | 1954-56   | 3   |
| 16                | Rolla B. Hill           | Miami, Florida                      | 1957-60   | 4   |
| 17                | Donald E. Eyles         | Bethesda, Maryland (NIH)            | 1961      | 1   |
| 18                | Geoffrey M. Jeffery     | Bethesda, Maryland (NIH)            | 1962-67   | 6   |
| 19                | Marion M. Brooke        | Atlanta, Georgia (Emory)            | 1968-70   | 3   |
| 20                | George Healy            | Atlanta, Georgia (Emory)            | 1971-75   | 5   |
| 21                | Mark T. Hoekenga        | Cincinnati, Ohio                    | 1976-80   | 5   |
| 22                | John E. Scanlon         | San Antonio, Texas                  | 1981-86   | 6   |
| 23                | William A. Sodeman, Jr. | Tampa, Florida                      | 1987-89   | 3   |
| 24                | Jonathan I. Ravdin      | Cleveland, Ohio                     | 1990-91   | 2   |
| 25                | Peter Weller            | Boston, Mass (Harvard)              | 1992-2002 | 11  |
| 26                | George V. Hillyer       | San Juan, Puerto Rico               | 2003-     |     |

## Editors of the AJTD&PM, AJTM, and the AJTM&H

|                    | Name                                                     | Location                                                                | Vols   | Years     | Dur |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-----------|-----|
| <b>AJTD&amp;PM</b> |                                                          |                                                                         |        |           |     |
|                    | Creighton Wellman<br>Charles Chassaignac<br>Isadore Dyer | New Orleans, Louisiana<br>(New Orleans Medical and Surgical<br>Journal) | 1 - 3  | 1913-1915 |     |
| <b>AJTM</b>        |                                                          |                                                                         |        |           |     |
| 1                  | Henry J. Nichols                                         | Army Medical School, Washington DC                                      | 1 - 6  | 1921-1926 | 6   |
| 2                  | Charles F. Craig                                         | Army Medical School, Washington DC                                      | 7 - 26 | 1927-1946 | 20  |
| 3                  | Mark F. Boyd                                             | Tallahassee, Florida                                                    | 27-30  | 1947-1950 | 4   |
| 4                  | L.W. Hackett                                             | Univ Cal Berkeley, School of Publ<br>Health                             | 31     | 1951      | n/a |
| <b>AJTM&amp;H</b>  |                                                          |                                                                         |        |           |     |
| 4 (cont)           | L.W. Hackett                                             | Univ Cal Berkeley, Sch Publ Health                                      | 1 - 6  | 1952-1957 | 7   |
| 5                  | Martin Frobisher                                         | Closter, New Jersey                                                     | 7      | 1958      | 1   |
|                    | Martin D. Young                                          | Pro tem                                                                 | 8      | 1959      |     |
| 6                  | Paul C. Beaver                                           | Tulane Med Cent, New Orleans                                            | 9 - 33 | 1960-1984 | 25  |
| 7                  | William D. Tigertt                                       | Baltimore, Maryland                                                     | 34-43  | 1985-1990 | 6   |
| 8                  | McWilson Warren                                          | Atlanta, Georgia                                                        | 44-57  | 1991-1997 | 7   |
| 9                  | James W. Kazura                                          | Case Western Reserve U, Cleveland, O                                    | 58-    | 1998-     | 6+  |

## Editors of the Tropical Medicine News

|                          | Name                | Location                 | Years     | Dur |
|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------|-----|
| <b>Trop Med News</b>     |                     |                          |           |     |
|                          | Joseph S. D'Antonio | New Orleans, LA (Tulane) | 1944 - 45 | 2   |
|                          | Norman H. Topping   | Bethesda, Maryland (NIH) | 1946 - 47 | 2   |
|                          | Frederick J. Brady  | Bethesda, Maryland (NIH) | 1948 - 51 | 4   |
| <b>Trop Med Hyg News</b> |                     |                          |           |     |
|                          | Leon Jacobs         | Bethesda, Maryland (NIH) | 1952 - 56 | 5   |
|                          | Louis J. Olivier    | Bethesda, Maryland (NIH) | 1957 - 59 | 3   |
|                          | William B. DeWitt   | Bethesda, Maryland (NIH) | 1960 - 65 | 6   |
|                          | Colvin L. Gibson    | Bethesda, Maryland (NIH) | 1966 - 86 | 21  |
|                          | Karl A. Western     | Bethesda, Maryland (NIH) | 1987- 99  | 13  |
|                          | Kathryn S. Aultman  | Bethesda, Maryland (NIH) | 2000 -    |     |

## Scientific Program Chairs

|                   | Name               | Location                  | Years       | Dur |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|-------------|-----|
| <b>ASTM&amp;H</b> |                    |                           |             |     |
|                   | McWilson Warren    | Atlanta, Georgia          | 1978 - 1980 | 3   |
|                   | Gordon D. Wallace  |                           | 1981 - 1983 | 3   |
|                   | Donald J. Krogstad | New Orleans, Louisiana    | 1984 - 1989 | 6   |
|                   | Thomas P. Monath   | Frederick, Maryland       | 1990 - 1992 | 3   |
|                   | William A. Petri   | Charlottesville, Virginia | 1993 - 2001 | 9   |
|                   | Edward T. Ryan     | Boston, Massachusetts     | 2002 -      |     |

