

SCIENCE

VOL. 86

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1937

No. 2230

<i>Medical Progress in the Last Hundred Years:</i> DR. M. G. SEELIG	275
<i>Scientific Events:</i> <i>The Institute of Neuropsychiatry of the University of Michigan; Regional Directors of the National Park System; Lectures at the Field Museum of Natural History; The Rochester Meeting of the National Academy of Sciences; Celebration of the Hundredth Anniversary of the Birth of Charles Frederick Chandler. Recent Deaths</i>	279
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i>	282
<i>Discussion:</i> <i>Life; A Photochemical Steady State:</i> PROFESSOR HAROLD F. BLUM. <i>Coal in Glacio-fluvial Deposits in Ohio:</i> PROFESSOR KARL VER STEEG. <i>Magnesium Sulfate Valueless as a Control for the Bean Beetle:</i> DR. NEALE F. HOWARD. <i>A Matter of Terminology:</i> DR. PAUL WEATHERWAX	285
<i>Scientific Books:</i> <i>A Biography of Peary:</i> PROFESSOR DOUGLAS JOHNSON	287
<i>Special Articles:</i> <i>Use of Dextrose by Excised Tomato Roots:</i> DR. WILLIAM J. ROBBINS and MARY A. BARTLEY. <i>The Anesthetic Effects of Some N-aryl Barbituric Acids Containing Dye-forming Groups:</i> DRs. AXEL M. HJORT, DR. DAVID W. FASSETT and EDWIN J. DEBEER. <i>Diffraction of X-rays by Built-up Films of Proteins:</i> PROFESSOR G. L. CLARK and SYDNEY ROSS	290
<i>Scientific Apparatus and Laboratory Methods:</i> <i>A Tubular Vacuum Type Centrifuge:</i> DR. J. W. BEAMS, F. W. LINKE and C. SKARSTROM	293
<i>Science News</i>	8

SCIENCE: A Weekly Journal devoted to the Advancement of Science, edited by J. MCKEEN CATTELL and published every Friday by

THE SCIENCE PRESS

New York City: Grand Central Terminal
Lancaster, Pa. Garrison, N. Y.

Annual Subscription, \$6.00 Single Copies, 15 Cts.

SCIENCE is the official organ of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Information regarding membership in the Association may be secured from the office of the permanent secretary, in the Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, D. C.

MEDICAL PROGRESS IN THE LAST HUNDRED YEARS¹

By Dr. M. G. SEELIG

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH, BARNARD FREE SKIN AND CANCER HOSPITAL, ST. LOUIS, MO.

IN the final analysis, however we may view the passage of the last one hundred years, what we here set down constitutes the recountal of a chapter in history. Not the formal stodgy detailing of name, date and place; not the mere description of men and of movements; not a philosophical interpretation of the causes and effects of events, but in the truest sense of the words the outlining of a pageantry of progress. During the past century, the mills of God have woven no other fabric so shot through, in both warp and woof, with the incomparably brilliant, gold and scarlet and royal purple as is the tapestry of medicine.

Your and my difficulty lies not in conceding the wonders of accomplishment of this century, but rather in setting down the facts on which they rest, without ending up with a mere catalogue of assets. And if we are to escape the dilemma of piling discovery on dis-

covery and of glorifying discoverer after discoverer, then we must recognize in the first instance that, like man himself, medicine can not thrive detached, but waxes and wanes in direct proportion to the inspirational impetus furnished her by the times in which she works. This is a truth, the generality of which is in no way invalidated by the fact that, on occasion, there comes from within the realm of medicine itself the stimulus that energizes and colors an entire era. Such was the case, for example, in the instances of Hippocrates and Galen, of Vesalius and his followers and of Harvey, to mention only a noted few.

Centuries, like men, have souls; but the perspective of time is required for their evaluation. Who among us would be bold enough to predict with assurance the final judgment of history on these hectic days through which you and I are elbowing our ways?

The seventeenth century was a time of individualism run riot. There were great writers—Shakespeare and

¹ Address before the St. Louis Medical Society centennial celebration, on April 6, 1937.

Science

86 (2230)

Science **86** (2230), 8-294.

ARTICLE TOOLS

<http://science.sciencemag.org/content/86/2230.citation>

PERMISSIONS

<http://www.sciencemag.org/help/reprints-and-permissions>

Use of this article is subject to the [Terms of Service](#)

Science (print ISSN 0036-8075; online ISSN 1095-9203) is published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1200 New York Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20005. The title *Science* is a registered trademark of AAAS.

Copyright © 1937 The Authors, some rights reserved; exclusive licensee American Association for the Advancement of Science. No claim to original U.S. Government Works.