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## The College of Medicine of Syracuse University:

- The March of Medicine*: DR. RAY LYMAN WILBUR 199  
*The Fruition of the Clinician*: DR. HENRY A. CHRISTIAN ..... 202

## Obituary:

- George Ellery Hale*: DR. ROBERT A. MILLIKAN.  
*Recent Deaths and Memorials* ..... 205

## Scientific Events:

- The Cost of Health Services in Great Britain; The Francis Amory Septennial Prize of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; Broadcasting by Science Service; The Chemists' Advisory Council; A Graduate School of Forestry at Duke University; New Scientific Journals* ..... 206

## Scientific Notes and News ..... 209

## Discussion:

- That Word "Emulsoid"*: PROFESSOR WILLIAM SEIFRIZ. *The Effect of Spectral Regions on the Chlorophyll "A" to "B" Ratio*: PROFESSOR W. E. TOTTINGHAM and H. J. DUTTON. *The "Dana" and the "Research"*: DR. J. A. FLEMING. *The Identification of Vitamin C*: DR. A. SZENT-GYÖRGYI 212

## Reports:

- Full Text of the New Organic Nomenclature Rules*: PROFESSOR AUSTIN M. PATTERSON ..... 215

## Special Articles:

- Tobacco Smoking and Longevity*: PROFESSOR RAYMOND PEARL. *Mental Efficiency, Carbohydrate Metabolism and Nutritional Hydration*: DR. FREDERICK HOELZEL. *The Germination of Lettuce Seed Stimulated by Chemical Treatment*: DR. ROSS C. THOMPSON and WILLIAM F. KOSAR. *Exceptional Temperatures of Central Atlantic Water*: H. B. HACHEY ..... 216

## Science News ..... 10

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## THE MARCH OF MEDICINE<sup>1</sup>

By RAY LYMAN WILBUR, M.D.  
PRESIDENT OF STANFORD UNIVERSITY

WHAT is it that happens that brings about the development of hospitals, and eventually medical schools, in most of our larger communities? Communities have personality, ambitions and vision. How interesting it would be if we could have been in Geneva in 1834 when the parent institution of the College of Medicine of Syracuse University was established; or could have attended the meetings that led up to its transfer to Syracuse under its present title in 1872. Something stirs in our communities that leads to the birth of institutions where medical students can be trained. The idea generates among the forward-looking physicians and spreads to others. As we look over the United States we find that this form of community expression has been a very significant factor in medical education. In the days when a group of

physicians could get together and organize a medical school that could be supported by the student fees too many such institutions appeared; but even now, with all the expense—and it is very considerable—of developing a medical teaching center, we find that most of the larger centers of population in the United States give strong financial support to training institutions for doctors of medicine. Communities, like persons, want to see the tangible results of their efforts. They show themselves at their very best in the public or government buildings which they erect and support—whether these are churches, schools, hospitals, medical schools, court houses—or even jails.

Medicine moves forward so rapidly that its day-to-day activities are necessarily educational. It is in no way finished. It is imperative that the young doctor and the nurse be brought into the immediate care of the sick. In no other way can medicine keep up with

<sup>1</sup> Address at the dedication of the Syracuse University College of Medicine building, November 22, 1937.

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