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MEDICAL NEWS	2587
INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS	2605
REFERENCE DIRECTORIES	
US Meetings	2609
Previous Listings: Foreign Meetings, Nov 8; Organizations, Oct 18; State Associations, Nov 22; Exams and Licensure, Nov 22; AMA Officials, Oct 11 (p 1786)	
JAMA 75 YEARS AGO	2633
LETTERS	2601
Echocardiography and Tumor Invasion of the Heart R. B. Kurzel, MD, A. F. Parisi, MD, J. J. Harrington, E. M. Barsamian, MD, Boston . . .	
Cancer and Diet A. J. Waller, P. A. McGraw, V. A. Schauss, A. Theologides, MD, Minneapolis . . .	
Definition of Volunteer Donor J. G. Allen, MD, Stanford, Calif. . .	
Halothane Arrhythmia W. Silver, MD, P. Sechzer, MD, M. Grosser, MD, Brooklyn, NY . . .	
Chlorazepate in Temporal Lobe Epilepsy R. G. Feldman, MD, Boston . . .	
Carotenemia vs Jaundice J. W. Leonard, MD, Castro Valley, Calif. . .	
Quality of Life M. D. Decker, Chicago . . .	
Brain Damage From Chronic Alcoholism F. Lemere, MD, J. W. Smith, MD, T. R. Jackson, MSW, Seattle . . .	
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe R. Kratz, MD, St Louis . . .	
Expectoration of Bronchogenic Tumor Tissue W. H. Kern, MD, Los Angeles . . .	
Monitoring Temperature During Anesthesia D. W. Wingard, MD, Omaha	
COMMENTARY	
Egregious Errors in the Management of Hypertension	2621
I. H. Page, MD, Cleveland	
ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS	
Unsuspected Substantial Pericardial Effusions Detected by Echocardiography	2623
A. L. Riba, MD, J. Morganroth, MD, Philadelphia	
Intrinsic Asthma in Adults	2626
E. E. Mays, MD, Presidio of San Francisco	
Multiple Epiphyseal Dysplasia	2629
H. R. Mena, MD, E. O. Pearson, MD, Kalamazoo, Mich	
Peritoneoscopy in Hodgkin Disease	2634
M. Coleman, MD; C. J. Lightdale, MD; V. P. Vinciguerra, MD; T. J. Degan, MD; M. Goldstein, MD; S. T. Horwitz, MD; S. J. Winawer, MD; R. T. Silver, MD, New York	
The Probability of Closure in Aortocoronary Vein Bypass Grafts	2637
A. A. Rimm, PhD; S. Blumlein, ScB; J. J. Barboriak, ScD; A. J. Anderson, MS; J. A. Walker, MD; W. D. Johnson, MD, Milwaukee	
SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS	
Syphilis Surveillance	2641
K. J. Tomecki, MD, M. E. Plaut, MD, Buffalo, NY	
Patient Complaints Against Physicians in the Richmond Area During 1973	2643
C. L. Cooke, MD, Richmond, Va	
BRIEF REPORTS	
Adverse Reactions in Treatment With Lithium Carbonate and Haloperidol	2645
P. C. Bastrup, MD, Glostrup, Denmark; P. Hollnagel, MD; R. Sørensen, MD; M. Schou, MD, Aarhus, Denmark	
Destructive Bone Disease in Early Syphilis	2646
W. E. Dismukes, MD; D. G. Delgado, MD; S. V. Mallernee, MD; T. C. Myers, MD, Birmingham, Ala	
Nonsurgical Closure of Large Arteriovenous Fistulas	2649
W. R. Castaneda-Zuniga, MD; S. M. Tadavarthy, MD; W. Murphy, MD; I. Beranek, MD; K. Amplatz, MD, Minneapolis	
CLINICAL NOTES	
Colonoscopy	2651
T. D. Crowson, MD; W. F. Ferrante, MD; J. B. Gathright, Jr, MD, New Orleans	
Fatal Neonatal Meningococcal Meningitis	2652
R. N. Jones, MD; J. Slepach, MD; A. Eades, Portland, Ore	

CONTENTS—Continued

Metronidazole and Hepatic Abscess2653
 J. G. Kane, MD; B. E. Fossieck, Jr, MD;
 R. H. Parker, MD, Washington, DC

**Multiple Squamous Papillomas of the Esophagus
 Diagnosed by Endoscopy**2655
 M. Darani, MD, F. Villa, MD, Chicago

EDITORIALS

Digital Gangrene2656

Who or What Developed?2656

Another Form of Iatrogenic Hypokalemia2657

TOWARD OPTIMAL LABORATORY USE

The Patient With Acute Diarrhea2662
 T. K. Satterwhite, MD, H. L. DuPont, MD, Houston

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS2669

Prostatitis: Diagnosis Does Not Require Needle Biopsy of Prostate A. M. Smith, MD, Augusta, Ga . . . **Progressive Enlargement of Prostatic Nodule After Castration** E. M. Meares, Jr, MD, Boston . . . **What Dietary Restrictions for Benign Prostatic Hypertrophy?** A. L. Finkle, MD, PhD, San Francisco . . . **Treatment of Woman With Tuberculin Skin-Test Conversion and History of Liver Disease** W. W. Stead, MD, Little Rock, Ark . . . **Reversion of Positive Tuberculin Skin Test and Conversion After Isoniazid Prophylaxis** W. R. Barclay, MD, Chicago

THE BOOK FORUM2674

Acne (Plewig, Kligman) **The Acnes** (Cunliffe, Cotterill) Reviewed by E. D. Loeffel, MD, Chicago . . . **Wilms' Tumor** (Pochedly, Miller, eds) Reviewed by H. C. Bishop, MD, Philadelphia . . . **American Medical Education** (Kaufman) Reviewed by L. S. King, MD, Chicago . . . **Glomerulonephritis** (Grundmann, ed) Reviewed by C. A. Krakower, MD, Chicago . . . **Urologic Surgery** (Mayor, Zingg) Reviewed by R. G. Middleton, MD, Salt Lake City . . . **Selected New Books**

OBITUARIES2680

SELECTED ABSTRACTS2686

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING2700

INDEX TO ADVERTISERS2718

CORRECTION

Familial Neuroblastoma2604

The Cover

The diagnosis has not been completely established—possibly overdose of Thanksgiving turkey complicated by viral infection, but the situation is clearly grave for boy, physician, and dog alike.

A Concerned Friend is a fair sample of the work of Joseph Dawley, a modern admirer of the Dutch Masters. Like them, Dawley likes to depict contrasts of light and shadow, many of his themes—such as character studies—are traditional, and he pays meticulous attention to the details—eyes, folds of drapery, even the plush texture of the teddy bear. In fact, he prefers the term “traditionalist” in describing his work, noting that “realism” covers a wide range of styles.

Dawley always wanted to be a painter. He worked as a newspaper cartoonist before he started to paint full time a decade ago. His works so far include the official portrait of Mother Seton on the occasion of her recent canonization as the first native-born North American saint. Dawley has also written several books about painting, and noted in one of these:

I don't think many people truly appreciate the great accomplishments of the Renaissance masters. If they did, they wouldn't always be frantically searching for “something new” in art. Instead of constantly seeking the new, we should look to the old masters and their methods for inspiration and keep building upon their discoveries.

—JAAN KANGILASKI

(*A Concerned Friend*. 1974. Oil on panel. 30×50 cm. Courtesy of the artist.)

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