

longer alleged, all races being about equally susceptible, depending upon personality, environment and habits of diet. (Dr. Julian H. Lewis' "Biology of the Negro," University of Chicago Press, contains an interesting and authoritative chapter on ulcer in the African races.)

No physician can afford to ignore these considerations in practice. They reside in the reflexes of the clinician of wide experience.

U. G. DAILEY, M.D.

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#### TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN A. KENNEY

The resignation from the Medical directorship of J. Andrew Hospital at Tuskegee by Dr. John A. Kenney, is more than a passing incident. This keen minded, modest, unassuming, able man represents an epoch of splendid achievement in the field of scientific medicine, and the record made by him during this period, can be equalled by but few men. With tireless, patient, painstaking effort, often in the face of circumstances that would have stumped the average man, Dr. Kenney carved out a career that would do credit to members of any racial group. It is perhaps, more appropriate to speak of his retiring from the head of the Tuskegee Hospital, as a coronation of excellent work done, not alone for himself, but for the race with which he is identified during a difficult period of its development.

May we, therefore, say "Hats Off" to Dr. John A. Kenney.

O. B. TAYLOR, M. D.

#### FORT HUACHUCA IS TOPS

Elsewhere in this issue is a statement of approval and recognition by the War Department of the service and ability of the Management and Staff of the Station Hospital Number 1 at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. These promotions (see p. 135) indicate that the Negro men and women, given a chance, have made good.

When the hospital was being activated and there was a chorus of objectors, we at once voiced our approval of the movement in our editorial, Volume XXXIV, number four. In this editorial, we showed that while we disapprove the principle of segregation, here was an opportunity offered for Negro men and women to demonstrate their ability to do big things, and that it would be foolish to pass it up. They accepted, and our hearts throb with pride in that they have made good. With hats off, we extend our congratulations to Col. Bousfield and his entire staff in that they have set one more milestone with upward progress of the Negro Race.

We'll be pardoned for referring to the fact that a member of this unit is our daughter, Miss Harriet Elizabeth Kenney, a Red Cross medical social worker. Miss Kenney having received her A.B. from Fisk University at once entered the New York School of Social Work where she attracted the attention of the American Red Cross, who adopted her and immediately on graduation took her into its ranks.

Thrice pleased are we that Fort Huachuca is tops.

J. A. K.

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## In Memorium

#### DR. JOHN HENRY HALE

At varying intervals a giant oak among us topples. This time it is John Hale—not old in years—sixty-two—but mighty accomplished in deeds.

Dr. Hale made good use of the talent entrusted to him. He was quiet, unassuming, religiously inclined, moral, temperate, studious. We first knew him, a recent graduate in the old Mercy Hospital, a private institution of Dr. R. F. Boyd. He grew up with the Meharry Medical College and with the George W. Hubbard Hospital. His influence

on shaping the lives and individual careers of young physicians is extensive. He was not only admired by his students and subsequent graduates, but much beloved by them, to many of whom he was their idol. He was undoubtedly one of the most beloved physicians of the Negro Race.

As Chief of the Surgical Staff of Meharry Medical College he is credited with having done "more than 30,000 operations." Many of these were done in his own private Millie E. Hale Infirmary and many at the various surgical clinics he attended in

the South. He was quietly ambitious, studious and observing. He made frequent visits to the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, and to the surgical shrines, Chicago, Illinois, and elsewhere, and thus developed his surgical technic and kept abreast of the times.

He was a member and patron of the John A. Andrew Clinical Society at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, and supervisor of the Surgical Clinics. Just two weeks before his death we visited him at his home in Nashville. Long will live in memory the picture of him, dressed in his pajamas, bathrobe and slippers, standing in the center of the room, as receiving host to a group of visitors. When we entered he extended his hand in his usual hearty manner and said "I'll be present at the clinic next week." When we withdrew it was with sadness. We had seen the hand-writing on the wall. He would never attend another clinic "on this side." As our clinic opened, the message came—"Dr. Hale has passed."

The medical profession has sustained a tremendous loss, in the demise of a stalwart exponent of general surgery.

John Henry Hale, Nashville, Tennessee; Meharry Medical College, Nashville, 1905; faculty member of Meharry Medical College for 39 years;

professor and chairman of the department of surgery, also associate director of the Tumor Clinic, Meharry; practised medicine 1905-1944; Walden University, bachelor of science, 1901; co-founder Millie E. Hale Hospital, 1916; accredited with more than 30,000 operations; president of National Medical Association, 1935; director of the surgical section, John A. Andrew Clinical Society; posthumously awarded a distinguished service medal, April 1944, at the John A. Andrew Clinic, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, for outstanding contributions to the medical profession; member Kappa Pi Honorary Scientific Society; chairman of the hospital committee and chief, surgical staff, George W. Hubbard Hospital of Meharry Medical College, where he died March 27, 1944, age 62, of myocardial insufficiency.

The committee on awards had chosen Dr. John H. Hale to receive the Distinguished Service Medal. The Medal was bestowed posthumously. Dr. Ulysses G. Daily of Chicago made the citation. This was followed by a brief memorial service conducted by Rev. C. W. Kelley who knew Dr. Hale.

"Know ye this day that a great man has fallen in Israel."

J. A. K.

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## BOOK REVIEWS

*THE TREATMENT OF PEPTIC ULCER: Based Upon Ten Years' Experience at the New York Hospital, by George J. Heuer, M.D., Professor of Surgery of Cornell University Medical College and Surgeon-in-Chief of the New York Hospital, Assisted by Cranston Holman, M.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery, Cornell University Medical College, and William A. Cooper, M.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery, Cornell University Medical College. Price \$3.00. Published by J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, London, and Montreal.*

We have here a very exhaustive study on the treatment and condition. "A ten year clinical study . . . 1,139 case histories aid in advancing diagnosis and treatment of peptic ulcer."

As result of this exhaustive study and large experience, the senior author is in position to draw some conclusions and present comparisons between the medical and surgical management of peptic ulcer. While the modus operandi is not clear cut in every individual case, he does present some very helpful suggestions and recommendations on whether certain cases should do well under a

medical regimen or whether they should be admitted to surgery.

Of 832 patients not previously operated, and admitted to wards for medical treatment, followed for ten years, none have thus far had to have operations. Of 1,204 patients observed, 472,—39.2 per cent sooner or later were operated one or more times. No more than 50 or 55 per cent of patients hospitalized show satisfactory control of symptoms of peptic ulcer by medical management. These, of course, are the serious cases. In the less serious cases the results are far more satisfactory, not more than one of every five or six finding it necessary even to enter the wards.

The author shows that the mortality rate from peptic ulcer treated medicinally is 3.5 per cent which approaches closely that of gastro-enterostomy and gastric resection.

In considering the question of whether to operate or to treat the patient medicinally he says the occurrence of severe pain and tenderness in the epigastrium, and serious or repeated hemorrhages are warnings not to be taken lightly.

J. A. K.

(Continued on page 136)