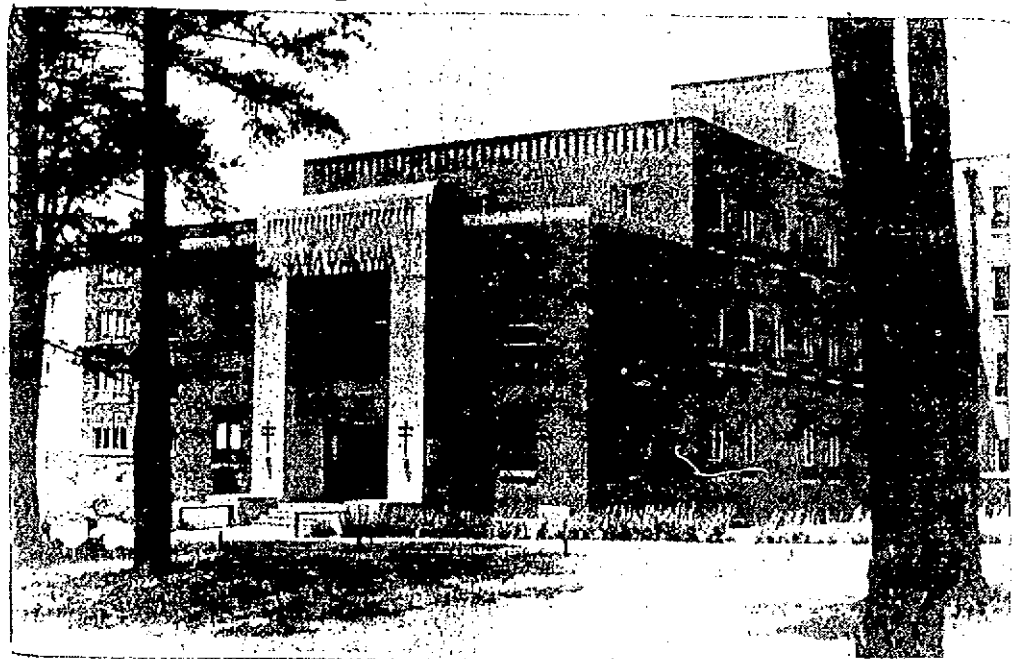


London Is An Important Medical Center

100-Bed State Tuberculosis Hospital Restores Many Persons To Normal Health



The London State Tuberculosis Hospital, serving the Fifth District comprising most of Southeastern Kentucky, received its first patient on Wednesday, Jan. 31, 1951.

Really there were two patients that day, the first from Leslie county with a patient from Pulaski county a close second.

Medical Directors

Dr. John S. Wisely was the first medical director, reporting Nov. 1, 1950, to organize the staff. He resigned Aug. 5, 1952, to be succeeded Sept. 10th by Dr. William David May.

Dr. D. L. Walker served as hospital dentist from its opening till resigning in November 1953 on account of ill health. He was succeeded by Dr. Dan McFadden.

Walter Chesnut has been business manager since the hospital's establishment, and he tells us that seventy employees are required to carry on the work there.

Now Has 105 Beds

The hospital's 100 beds were filled soon after its opening, and as a patient is discharged there is always one on the waiting list to take his place immediately.

The experience at the London Tuberculosis Hospital has been quite satisfactory ever since its

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Laurel County Health Department Established Here July 1, 1931



LAUREL COUNTY HEALTH CENTER

Of all the organizations in Laurel county, there are probably none of more importance than the County Health Department.

The Laurel County Health Department was first started in July 1931 with its first health officer, the late Dr. G. S. Brock.

A story published in The Sentinel-Echo on July 2, 1931, tells of Dr. Brock and Caleb Cross returning from Indianola, Mississippi, where they had been taking a six-week's training course in health and sanitation and starting to work on Wednesday, July 1, 1931, under the name of the Laurel County Health Department.

This new department was located in the Poynter Building and was made possible by the Public Health Service, an organization backed by the Rockefeller Foundation, the United States Congress, and Laurel county. Each agency contributed funds and the duty of the local Health Department was the same as now, to promote preventive medicine and to enforce sanitation.

Three persons were employed in the office at that time. Dr. G. S. Brock was health officer to assist the ailing to recover and to prevent others from becoming ill. Mr. Gross was the sanitary engineer, or sanitarian as the position is known now. His job was to inspect all eating establishments and other businesses catering to the public to see that they were operated in a manner which would not be detrimental to public health.

The health department under Dr. Brock did an excellent job. Through the medium of inoculation, the scourge of typhoid fever was dissipated and for many other disease preventive measures were initiated.

On September 9, 1937, Dr. John D. Fouts succeeded Dr. Brock and served until 1941. In the meantime, January 6, 1938, the Health Department was moved to new quarters on Main Street in a new building constructed for that purpose by Dr. G. S. Brock and Charles A. Chandler. It remained here until the present health building was constructed in 1953.

Following Dr. Fouts, who left in 1941, as health officer, was Dr. R. B. Fulks who was shared with Knox

and Whitley counties. Dr. Fulks remained in the health service until 1946 when he was succeeded by Dr. C. A. Waldemayer who remains today as health officer of Laurel and Knox counties.

County Health Center In 1953

In 1952, an opportunity presented itself to Laurel county whereby they could secure a new building under the Hill-Burton Act which permitted the matching of local, State, and Federal funds for the providing of new homes for county health departments.

When this possibility became known, the Laurel County Health Department and other interested local agencies acted with unprecedented speed. Sparkplugged by the London-Laurel County Development Association and backed up by the Fiscal Court, within a very few days the county was ready with \$10,000. City of London contributed \$1,000. The State of Kentucky provided \$20,000 more and matched with \$30,000 from the Federal Government, the county was assured of a \$60,000 building which was finished last June.

This new building contains 2 clinic rooms, 4 offices for the staff, an auditorium seating 50 persons and several utility rooms. It is staffed with a part-time health officer, Dr. Waldemayer, a public health nurse, Mrs. Luvenia Crittenden, a sanitarian, George Baldwin, and a clerk-receptionist, Mrs. Ruth Gaines.

As mentioned before, the Laurel County Health Department was set up for the general prevention of disease. Mrs. Crittenden says the original purpose has not changed, but that new phases of health work have been added to the department since its genesis some 23 years ago. It has since set up a better system of health education and has initiated programs having to do with nutrition and maternal welfare.

All in all and down through the years the Laurel County Health Department has proved its worth. It has assisted in eliminating sources of diseases through its supervision of eating places, drinking water, and general sanitation. Many children are thriving because of pre-natal advice given their mothers, and to list the other benefits of this organization would require volumes. It will not be out of place to say, in view of these things, that it is an organization the county could scarcely do without.

Pennington Ranks High As Surgeon

Dr. Robert E. Pennington, who is carried on the rolls of the U. S. Army Reserves as a Lieutenant Colonel, can easily be ranked with the foremost surgeons in Kentucky, if not in the United States.

Dr. Pennington was born in London on September 24, 1910, the son of the late Dr. H. V. and Sallie Baugh Pennington, and after attending Sue Bennett Memorial School from the grades through the first year of college, enrolled in the University of Kentucky, graduating



DR. ROBERT E. PENNINGTON in 1931 with an A. B. Degree. A year later, he secured a Masters degree from the same institution. He then entered the University of Pennsylvania where he received his M. D. in 1936.

In the two ensuing years, he served his internship at the Philadelphia General Hospital, leaving in July 1938, to become assistant in pathology at the Institute of Pathology, Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio.

From Jan. 1939 to July 1941, he was a Fellow in Surgery to Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research Graduate School, University of Minnesota. Then from July 1941 until April 1942, was a resident in surgery at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota.

On April 28, 1942 Dr. Pennington was commissioned out of civil life as a captain in the U. S. Army Medical Corp. Dr. Pennington served consecutively at Ft. Warren, Wyoming; Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas; Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri, before being promoted to Major on October 15, 1943, and sent overseas to serve in North Africa, India, and China. Dr. Pennington was the commanding officer of the 47th Portable Surgical Hospital and after about two years overseas, returned to the United States in November 1945 where a month later he was advanced to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Discharged from service in 1946, Dr. Pennington returned home to London where he has since been engaged in general surgery. He was married on February 12, 1946 to Miss Carol Peterson of Medford, Wisconsin. They have three children, Robert 7; Sallie, 5; and Katherine, nearly 3.

He is a member of the Methodist church, the Laurel county, the Kentucky, the American, and the Southern Medical Associations. He is also a member of the South-eastern Surgical Congress, a Diplomate to the National Board of Medical Examiners, the Ex-Resident Association of Mayo Foundation, and is licensed to practice in Kentucky and Minnesota.

Pile Remedy

Jonathan McNeill, merchant, farmer, financier and large land owner of East Bernstadt, doubtless was a sufferer from hemorrhoids when he received this letter from his friend and attorney, Judge Robert Boyd. Written on a letter head of Boyd & Boreing, in which Vincent Boreing was the partner, U. S. Mail Contractors and Dealers in Real Estate, the letter dated London, Ky., Nov. 15, 1890, and was as follows: "J. McNeill, Sir: Pile Remedy. Take night shade and fresh butter without salt and sweet cream. Boil down together into a syrup and anoint the parts with the same. Yours truly, "R. Boyd"

HOSPITAL'S GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

"Infirmary" Opened Its Doors In 1904 Where Judge Wm. Lewis Now Lives

The announcement in The Mountain Echo of May 15, 1891, that a young doctor who had been practicing medicine at the Camp Ground, had opened an office in the Jackson building, had more meaning for London than the people had any way to know or suspect at the time. He was Dr. H. V. Pennington, recently from Virginia, an M. D., a "physician and surgeon", and a dentist.

It was some ten years later that Dr. Pennington realized a dream and opened the Pennington Infirmary where Judge and Mrs. Wm. Lewis now live. On Feb. 16, 1904, The Echo reported the fourth successful operation at the Infirmary.

But before building the Infirmary, Dr. Pennington had achieved a wide reputation as a surgeon, without benefit of adequate facilities or assistance. With an operation under adverse circumstances he had saved the life of Wm. N. Edwards, brother of P. P. Edwards, who had been shot through the liver in front of the Catching building by Dan S. Tipton. In this operation, in which he was assisted by Drs. J. B. Mason, P. E. Bryant and Alex. Foster, and the operating room was a guest room in the old Jackson Hotel, where the Baptist church and George Hamu's store are now, a part of the liver had to be removed. Instruments used in the operation were sterilized by boiling in a wash kettle back of the hotel, if the memory of the writer serves him well. Anyway, it was accepted by the people as a miracle, which indeed it was.

Dead Brought To Life

Another of the miracles performed by Dr. Pennington saved the life of Elsy Langford in Mt. Vernon, where Dr. Pennington happened to be on duty.

Surgeon And Hospital Builder



DR. H. V. PENNINGTON 1869-1914

opened to be at the right time. Really it was a bringing back to life, for Langford had been given up as dead.

According to The London Sentinel, April 30, 1908, under the heading "Dead Man Lives", Langford had been shot four times, twice in the head and part of his brains lost. With characteristic faith and decision, noting that some life was still in the body, using such instruments as were at hand, and with the assistance of Dr. Joe F. Baugh of London, and Drs. Lovell and Southard, Dr. H. V. Pennington performed the life-saving operation. Langford became a familiar figure in London, coming here for treatment at the Infirmary, and though never fully well again he lived for several years.

Pennington General Hospital

London had a long line of good doctors before him, during his time and afterwards, but Dr. H. V. Pennington, more than anyone else, typifies the qualities and traits that have made London the medical center of Southeastern Kentucky.

Dr. Pennington sold his original infirmary and later established a hospital on the second floor of The National Bank building. He maintained the hospital there until on Tuesday, April 20, 1926, his "dream of a lifetime" came true when he opened the Pennington General Hospital on Ramsey hill, overlooking much of London. This hospital, four stories high including the full basement, was about as fireproof as one could be, and most modern in every detail. More about its building will be found in an article on the London Commercial Club. He



MARYMOUNT HOSPITAL

had the assistance of Drs. G. S. Brock and J. W. Crook, and of many other well-wishers in London and Laurel county who purchased bonds. But the hospital was Dr. H. V. Pennington, and Dr. Pennington was the hospital. He lived to pay off all the bonds in full and to make improvements that were planned in the beginning but delayed, including the automatically operated elevator.

The first operations in the new hospital, on Wednesday, were of Mrs. Grace Ellison and Mrs. Minnie Clark of Corbin, and Don Fouts of London, Sentinel-Echo linotypist.

Dr. Pennington continued active in the operation of the hospital till his death on Oct. 15, 1914, but in his latter years had the assistance of his son, Dr. Walter Pennington, a successful surgeon in his own right; and now a second son, Dr. Robert Pennington, is staff surgeon, and continuing the traditions of his father and brother.

The hospital was sold in May 1916 to the Catholic church and has since been operated by the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, under the direction of Sister Michaela and Sister Rosa Edna as superintendents. In 1950 another floor of seven rooms was added as living quarters for the Sisters.

Bloodstone And Madstone In Laurel Medical History

A bloodstone, long in the Baugh family, was used by Chas. A. Baugh in London early in this century for the prevention of rabies. People came to Mr. Baugh from nearby counties when bitten by "mad dogs". My memory is that milk or cream was used in the treatment, and whether or not it disappeared when the stone was pressed on the injured part would tell if the treatment had been successful. So far as I know, no one treated with it ever died. The last I knew of this stone, it was in the possession of Stoney Baugh in Winchester.

The following story on "Judge Baugh's Madstone", copied from a Courier-Journal of January 1908, gives some interesting history on it:

The picture (not reproduced here) herewith represents a madstone owned by Mayor Chas. B. Baugh, of London. The stone is old ivory color, about the size of an inch cube, and very porous. Originally it was the property of William Baugh, born in Virginia, near Petersburg, 1765, who was the

(Continued to Page I-4)

Laurel County Medical Profession Grew Up With The Sentinel-Echo

These past seventy-five years have been years of great progress and improvement. Wonderful progress has been made in the professions and the services they afford the people, and in no profession has there been greater advancement than in medicine. Especially is this true in the community served by The Sentinel-Echo.

Seventy-five years ago the practice of medicine was only recently controlled, through the circuit courts in their various districts of the State. On June 5, 1874, Dr. T. P. Caldwell of Manchester and Drs. H. S. Pitman and Jas. W. Jackson of Laurel county, who had been appointed medical examiners, had this notice in The Mountain Echo: "The Board of Medical Examiners for the 15th Judicial District will meet at Manchester in Clay county on the 1st Monday in July 1874, for the purpose of examining all applicants who may desire certificates to practice medicine in any of its departments. Those wishing to practice Obstetrics only, will be examined on that subject."

"The examination is to be made subject to an act to protect citizens of this Commonwealth from emigration, approved February 23rd, 1874."

That was a start. Epidemics Numerous Drs. J. D. Foster, H. S. Pitman, Jas. W. Jackson and W. S. Young were listed as Laurel county doctors in 1871.

They had lots to contend with. There were many epidemics, those most prevalent affecting groupings probably were typhoid and smallpox. In 1881 typhoid took many lives, but that could be said of many years for the next two decades. Victims of smallpox were confined to "pest houses" which certainly lacked the comforts of the most modest homes and could not be counted on to contribute to recovery, though many patients did show the tape worm always recover. Armed guards were placed

at the pesthouses to prevent escapes, and they were known to have used their guns. When the epidemic was over the pesthouse was burned. It is said that London's first public school, where the A. R. Dyche Memorial Cemetery is now, was so destroyed after it had been used as a pesthouse, and the community was without a building in which to hold its school for several years.

Examinations For Civil War Pensions Outside treating people in epidemics and for illness and injuries generally, an important work for the doctors was the examination of Civil War veterans for pensions. Up to October 1885, the examining board consisted of Dr. J. P. Foster alone. That month a three member board of examiners was appointed, consisting of Dr. Foster and Drs. T. P. Caldwell and N. M. Scales.

Tracoma, Pellagra and Hookworms Epidemics of later years included tracoma, an eye infection; pellagra, characterized by skin lesions and nervous symptoms, and hookworms. A tracoma hospital, first established at Hyden, was moved to the D. B. Murphy residence in East London in the summer of 1915, and the following year was moved to the Judge Wm. Lewis property opposite the post office, where it was maintained some years before being moved to Richmond. Their many patients were brought from several Mountain counties, and Dr. J. C. Johnson was in charge of it.

Two years before, in June 1913, the State Board of Health set up a clinic for examination and a free dispensary for the treatment of hookworms. Fifty per cent of the 2,000 persons examined were infected according to The Sentinel's report. Treatment was also provided for the most modest homes and could not be counted on to contribute to recovery, though many patients did show the tape worm always recover. Armed guards were placed

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