

Journal

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Instructions to Contributors

Manuscripts submitted for consideration for publication in the JOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION should be addressed to the Editor, Dr. John B. Thomison, P.O. Box 70, Nashville, Tennessee 37203.

Manuscripts must be typewritten on one side of letterweight paper, either double or triple spacing and wide margins must be provided to facilitate editing which will be legible for the printer.

Bibliographic references should not exceed twenty in number documenting key publications. They should appear at the end of the paper. The bibliographic references must conform to the style used in the American Medical Association publications, as—Alais, F. G.: What is Known About it, J. Tennessee M. A., 35:132, 1950.

Illustrations should be mounted on white cardboard, numbered and identified with the author's name. The editor will determine the number, if any, of illustrations to be used with the Journal assuming the cost of engravings and cuts up to \$25. Engraving cost for illustrations in excess of \$25 will be billed to the author.

If reprints are wanted, the desired number should be indicated in the letter accompanying the manuscript. No reprints are provided free and a reprint cost schedule will be forwarded upon request.

An Early History of the Upper Cumberland Medical Society

LEE R. MINTON, M.D.

Dr. Wilson Tallyrand McColgan has been called the father of the Upper Cumberland Medical Society, however, an early history of this organization must start with a narrative of his son and the weekly medical journal which he edited and published.

The elder physician settled in the Cumberlandlands about 1845 to practice medicine in Arcot, Tennessee near Celina. Records indicate that he was a slave owner and that he tended a rather large farm in this community. By 1858 he had constructed an imposing fourteen-room brick house; which still stands and continues to be occupied.

A son, James Tallyrand McColgan, was born on August 8, 1845. At the age of 15 he joined the Confederate Army and distinguished himself in combat at Mill Springs and Shiloh, later becoming a member of General John Morgan's Calvary. For three years he rode the highways and forest paths as a sergeant major with Morgan's Raiders in Kentucky and Ohio. After being captured and imprisoned he returned to Arcot, but soon enrolled in the University of Nashville Medical School. He was finally graduated from the New Orleans Medical College and returned to Clay County to practice medicine.

The young Dr. McColgan had a variety of interests, among these being printing and editing a medical journal. It is said that he constructed his own printing press and by 1890 was ready to edit and publish the only weekly medical journal in the South, *The Country Doctor*. The journal was printed and published in Arcot and on January 29, 1890 the first issue appeared. Dr. McColgan wrote the lead article, "Effects of Heat and Atmospheric Changes as a Cause of Paresis of the Sympathetic Centers." In the 12th issue the editor made a first appeal to organize the physicians of the Upper Cumberland. He notes in an editorial in this issue "why should there not be organized an Upper Cumberland Medical Society?; if any of the brethren in this section will make a start, we pledge the hearty cooperation of *The Country Doctor*. Let us hear from you."¹ In August

1890 an announcement appears in the journal that the Upper Cumberland Medical Society will be organized and the first meeting will be held in Celina on October 20, 1890 for "social, scientific, and literary reasons." Dr. C. K. Haggard of Burksville, Kentucky was appointed the president, pro tem. An elaborate executive committee was announced; ten physicians from Tompkinsville, Kentucky to Cookeville, Tennessee were placed on this committee. Announcements continued to appear weekly in his journal concerning the proposed meeting. A late announcement changed the meeting time to October 27. (It should be noted that this would place the meeting time just prior to the early November general elections.)

In the November 5, 1890 issue of the journal the following comment appears, "The Upper Cumberland Medical Society met at Celina at the scheduled time; most of the members attended by proxy; we were the proxy, we invested in a pint and a half of chestnuts and tendered the Society a sumptuous banquet, which was muchly enjoyed by the proxy of some 85 delegates who feared that bad roads and incimate weather might interfere with their reaching home in time for them to vote if they came. The nation must be saved at all hazards and we will all have to overlook their failings at this time. However, we mean to hold on to our office of secretary and when a respectful number of physicians of the Upper Cumberland Valley notify us that they will give a portion of their valuable time to the purpose of affecting an organization, the humble services as well as our columns of *The Country Doctor* are at their command."²

The last issue of *The Country Doctor* as published in Arcot is dated March 2, 1892 and no other editorial is found in his journal concerning the proposed society. The editor had not succeeded in his attempt to organize the physicians of the Upper Cumberland, however, his journal must have generated the necessary spark for the society's beginning four years later.

In 1894 the elder Dr. Wilson Tallyrand McColgan began his efforts to organize the

society. He had apparently heard of the success of the now organized White County Medical Society and wrote Dr. William B. Young of Bon Air and Sparta. He suggested that Dr. Young act as secretary and write every physician in the Upper Cumberland to be present at a meeting in Cookeville in October 1894. The meeting took place at the county court house with six physicians attending. Dr. McColgan rode 40 miles on horseback to attend the meeting. Others present were: Dr. William B. Young, Dr. John Martin, Dr. W. J. Breeding, Dr. Sam Denton and Dr. J. L. Jones. Dr. McColgan was elected president and a committee appointed to draft a constitution and report to a meeting in Cookeville on May 4, 1895. Dr. Young states, "The response was most encouraging as 50 physicians were in attendance, among whom were some prominent physicians and surgeons from Nashville. The sessions were held at the Methodist Church of the city with several laymen as visitors. I remember Major Rutledge Smith who at that time lived in Cookeville and some laymen and businessmen attending the sessions. The paper of Cookeville and other county papers published most of the proceedings and gave the society a boost. A district medical society in that section was something out of the ordinary."³

We know little about the 1896 meeting other than it met at Bloomington Springs with Dr. William B. Young serving as president.

Dr. T. J. Jackson of liberty served as president in 1897, a notable year as the journal, *The Country Doctor* reappeared, published in Sparta. The only known copies of the journal as published in Sparta start as Volume IV, number 1, May 1897. It was now the official publication of the Upper Cumberland Medical Society and was published monthly by Mr. R. P. Baker of the Favorite Publishing Company of Sparta. Its editor was Dr. William B. Young.

In the May 1897 issue Dr. Young states that "with this issue Mr. Baker and I assume entire responsibility of *The Country Doctor*. By this we do not mean to take the journal out of the jurisdiction, so to speak, of the society. Not by any means. It is still the official organ of the Upper Cumberland Medical Society, in the interest of which it will continue to be published and we do earnestly hope that it may be to this association what the *Journal of the A.M.A.* has been to that organization—the life giving medicine. *The Country Doctor*, while it has

donned a new dress, congratulates itself on being able to procure just men as it has had for contributors. We hope to make this periodical one of the leading monthly journals in the South. We pay special attention to special investigations and development with serum therapy, x-ray, surgery, the new nucleonic acid treatment of tuberculosis, mind cure or hypnosis, and etc."⁴

According to an editorial in the May 1898 issue of *The Country Doctor* the society convened at Carthage with Dr. A. H. King of Chestnut Mound serving as president. The meeting was held at the Methodist Church. Dr. Young states, "members were assigned to rooms in palatial residences of the citizens of Carthage where they received a royal private banquet three times a day, with a finishing touch between meals and a button hole bouquet to wear to each session of the meeting. It was from the social standpoint by far the greatest success in the history of the society. The banquet given by the ladies Wednesday night is beyond description—a profusion of flowers with tables loaded with the richest viands, and the rooms in the large courthouse filled with beautiful women. There were 42 members of the association at this meeting."⁵ Nashville physicians attending this meeting were: Drs. Duncan Eve, J. S. Cain, Hillard Wood, W. B. Haggard, and J. W. Handley.

Dr. Tom Moore of Algood described early meetings as following: "The meetings were opened to the public and the people really took it in. Especially the first morning, it looked like an old fashion revival meeting. Large crowds, a rousing welcome address and response. Flowers presented to the president. Most every paper read created lively discussions. Some of them unlike smooth running facts given today were very controversial debates."⁶

Dr. William Young's narration of an early meeting in Celina: "Dr. S. B. Fowler of Gainesboro in his usual charming way of entertaining, had invited all the members to meet at Gainesboro and to be conducted by him to Celina by boat. It was a unique and delightful navigation up the river in the little steam boat, with beautiful scenery all along the route. The leading attorney, Mr. Plumlee of Celina delivered the address of welcome and as I remember the response by Dr. S. B. Fowler. The hospitality extended by the good citizens of their private homes were most cordial. I remember that some

were entertained in the home of the father of U.S. Senator, Cordell Hull."⁷ Dr. Tom Moore's narration of this meeting is as follows: "I had become a member and attended the first meeting at Celina, a very rural county. The doctors from Sparta, Crossville and this county, Cookeville, Algood, and Monterey, went in buggies and horseback to Gainesboro and left our horses and buggies at Dr. S. B. Fowler's big coal farm and caught a boat on the Cumberland River for a three or four day trip to attend the two sessions at Celina. We joined doctors from Nashville, Lebanon, and Carthage on the boat. I am sure that the care and board for the 15 or 20 horses cost nothing."⁸

There is no specific information available from 1899 to 1911, however, there is a preserved minute book from 1911 to 1917. From this book much information is available as to officers, places of meetings, attendance, dues, and titles of papers presented. Of interest is the following: 1911 meeting in Monterey attended by 39, Dr. M. N. Alexander, president; 1912 meeting in Algood attended by 196, Dr. Tom Moore, president; 1913 meeting in Livingston attended by 23, Dr. W. C. Officer, president; 1914 meeting in Algood attended by 40, Dr. W. M. Breeding, president; 1915 meeting in Cookeville attended by 50, Dr. J. S. Campbell, president; 1916 meeting in Monterey attended by 205, Dr. Z. L. Shipley, president.

In the minutes of May 1911 appears the following report from the Committee on Necrology: "Mr. President, one of the founders of our society, Dr. W. T. McColgan, has fallen at the ripe old age of 85 years as the ripe oak falls in the stillness of the forest, but the verdance and the richness of his glory by being father of the Upper Cumberland Medical Society will only fade and wither from the Upper Cumberland Valley when this association fails to meet in the annual session . . . and whereas, God and his wise providence has seen fit to remove from the scene of his activities our friend and brother, W. L. McColgan . . . therefore, be it resolved that this the Upper Cumberland Medical Society express sorrow in his death."⁹

From the minute book we also find the location of each physician as he signed in and paid the 50 cents annual dues. Some of these Upper Cumberland locations are as follows: North Springs, Hermitage, Lancaster, Pleasant Shade, Butler's Landing, Brush Creek, Lilly Dale,

Willow Grove, Algood, Oak Hill, Ridge Top, Temperance Hall, Laurel Hill, Baxter, Dixon Springs, New Middleton, Grant, Buffalo Valley, Hilham, Wilder, Rock Island, Rome, Chestnut Mound, Granville, Monroe, Darkey Springs, Briceville, Spiva, Haydsburg, Crawford, Hickman, Clifty, Farbus, Dicus, Goodbar, River Hill, Nettle Carrier, Perryville, Flynn's Lick, Moss, Ravens Croft, Francher's Mill, Difficult, Westburn and Galand.

According to Drs. Young and Moore some of the leaders of the Society during this first twenty years are as follows: Dr. S. B. Fowler, Gainesboro; Dr. John Martin, Cookeville; Dr. M. B. Capps, Livingston; Dr. J. L. Jones, New Middleton; Dr. T. J. Jackson, Liberty; Dr. W. M. Farmer, Buffalo Valley; Dr. W. T. McColgan, Arcot; Dr. A. King, Chestnut Mound; Dr. W. N. Gray, Celina; Dr. C. E. Read, Gainesboro; Dr. T. J. Smith, Laurel Hill; Dr. Henry Martin, Cookeville; Dr. W. J. Breeding, Cookeville; Dr. S. E. Gaines, Sparta; Dr. W. A. Howard, Cookeville; Dr. Z. L. Shipley, Cookeville and Dr. Edward Clark, Willow Grove.

Dr. R. E. Lee Smith an early president later served twenty continuous years as treasurer; Dr. Z. L. Shipley also served twenty years as secretary.

A leader until the present time is Dr. Luther M. Freeman of Granville. Dr. Freeman received his medical degree from the University of Nashville Medical School and returned to Granville to practice medicine about 1905. He attended his first meeting of the society in 1911 and then became a member in 1914. He was elected president of the organization in 1921 and since then he had served continuously as secretary. Dr. Freeman continues active in the practice of medicine even until the present time.

Possibly the largest attendance was in 1931 when 271 members attended. Since 1934 the meeting place has been Red Boiling Springs except 1942 and 1944 when it met in Livingston and Cookeville.

As the society continues to thrive the physicians of the Upper Cumberland are proud of their society and its heritage, unique among regional medical organizations.

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