

noma and these patients deserve study with this modality in view; myxedema of more than a few months' duration is probably not worth-while. The undifferentiated or anaplastic thyroid carcinoma is very unlikely to have sufficient uptake of radioiodine for a beneficial response, and radioiodine has little or no place in the therapy of these tumors.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Direct quotations from *Progress In Radiation Therapy* edited by Franze Buschke, M.D., Grune & Stratton publishers, New York, 1958; Section on Radiation therapy of the thyroid written by Glenn E. Sheline, M.D., Associate Professor of Radiology, University of California, School of Medicine.

## PENSÉES

BY R. R. GRAYSON, M.D.

*"Let no one say that I have said nothing new; the arrangement of the subject is new. When we play tennis, we both play with the same ball, but one of us places it better."*

*"I had as soon it said that I used words employed before. Words differently arranged have a different meaning, and meanings differently arranged have different effects."* Blaise Pascal, 1623-1662 (Pensées)

The above words out of the past should give added incentive to doctors who will not write a paper for fear someone else has written a similar article, and would provide surcease from guilt to those who already have written thusly.

\* \* \*

Many of the bad habits that children develop that we say are normal, such as lying and cheating, are probably not intrinsic to their nature, but are imitations of their parents.

\* \* \*

It is surprising to find out how many adult patients with heart disease whom we ordinarily diagnose as having arteriosclerotic heart disease, in reality are suffering from some sur-

gically correctible lesion, such as mitral stenosis or interatrial septal defect.

\* \* \*

An axiom might be formulated in regard to epidemics: don't diagnose on the basis of what is commonest in your practice at a particular time. For example, how many cases of acute appendicitis or acute viral hepatitis have been missed because there was an epidemic of gastroenteritis?

\* \* \*

Pain in the ear, the neck, the face, or the temporo-mandibular joint frequently comes from malocclusion. This is a fine old term meaning the teeth are gone on that side doctor and send the patient to the dentist not the

neurologist and when you looked in the patient's mouth what were you looking for, the uvula?

\* \* \*

Why do not all the medical schools teach our future doctors something about the medical ramifications of such allied professions as dentistry and veterinary medicine? Some of the Tunnel Vision of recent graduates and M.D. specialists is due to the omission of special teaching in these areas of medicine. Many doctors, for example, probably still think that all dentists do is fill teeth and vets are men who just give distemper shots.

\* \* \*

Medical library research can do much for you: it can uncover many gems of information, and unearth pearls from the past. Consider this passage on page 320 of the "12th Conference on Chemotherapy of Tuberculosis" (1953).

"Dr. Des Autels has asked me to announce that he has lost his keys."

Dr. Towey: "Those keys are hanging on the hook by the 1st toilet downstairs."

\* \* \*

Back in medical school the dictum was that a woman is a constipated biped. Perhaps it should be rephrased, in that she is a multiparous constipated biped. She frequently has a mildly prolapsed uterus which her doctors have not discovered simply because it is not yet prolapsed completely, and this is causing lower abdominal aching, low back pain, dyspaerunia, stress incontinence, rectal discomfort, constipation, bloating, flatulence, nervousness, fatigue,

and repeated urinary tract infections. All of this can usually be proven by the intelligent diagnostic trial of a vaginal pessary.

\* \* \*

If we really knew our percentages of wrong and omitted diagnoses we would stop being so cock-sure of ourselves.

\* \* \*

One must always weigh the risk of the treatment against the risk of the disease. To do this requires a knowledge of the natural course of the disease which is something we might have forgotten. We might never have even known the natural course of the disease, as a matter of fact, inasmuch as most of our patients receive treatment.

\* \* \*

The reason some things have not yet been discovered is that every time some bright mind thinks of a new idea he goes to an opinionated authority who gives twenty reasons why he's wrong and who doesn't have the brains to think of the one reason he is correct.

25 Oleander Court  
St. Louis 23, Mo.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

(Continued from page 12)

5. Horn, Robert C. Jr., and Dull, James A. Carcinoma of the Thyroid; a Re-Evaluation. *Annals of Surgery*, Vol. 139; No. 1. January, 1954.
6. Ward, Grant E., Hendrick, J. W., and Chambers, Robert G. Carcinoma of the Thyroid Gland. *Annals of Surgery*, Vol. 131; No. 4. April, 1950.

1912 Broadway  
Cape Girardeau, Mo.