

## HISTORY OF WESTERN SECTION OF AUA

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There has been an active interest in organized urology in the West since the turn of the century. Some evidence of this is that within a year of the meeting at which the American Urological Association was formed from the New York Genito-Urinary Society, on February 22, 1902, five urologists from the West Coast had been voted into membership.\* Monthly meetings of the AUA were being held at that time in New York City. Granville MacGowan, in 1913, was the first president of the AUA from the West Coast.

Evolution of the geographic boundaries of the Western Section is interesting. The 1907 minutes of the Executive Committee of the AUA and the bylaws of that year indicate that the states and Canadian provinces had been divided into five sections. The Western Section was one of these and included, in addition to the present member states, Colorado, New Mexico, Alaska, and British Columbia. Hawaii and the Philippine Islands were added in 1920. The 1935 bylaws added "Manitoba and provinces west of Manitoba." In 1940 Colorado had been deleted, and the Canadian provinces included were Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia; Guam and Samoa also had been added.

The Sections did not organize and begin to function until twenty years or more after the bylaws were first written. In those early days they called themselves Branches and did not necessarily follow section boundaries prescribed in the bylaws. Although Colorado continued as part of the Western Section until 1940, it was never a part of the Western Branch. In June, 1921, when the Southwestern states petitioned the AUA to form a Southwestern Branch, Colorado was included. The Western Branch was not organized until the following year, thus Colorado was never included. Similarly Utah was part of the Western Section according to AUA Bylaws. However, before the Western Branch was fully organized, Utah was annexed to the Southwestern Branch in 1924. In

1931 the urologists of Utah voted to return to the Western Branch. The term "sections" in the bylaws and "branches" used by the functioning organizations often has been the cause of confusion.

New Mexico remained a part of the Western Branch until 1942 when the Constitutional Revision Committee of the AUA recommended that New Mexico be transferred to the recently created South Central Section, into which the Southwestern Branch had been merged. New Mexico was in an anomalous position. It had four urologists, three of whom were members of the Southwestern Branch and one a member of the Western Branch. A question remained about the status of New Mexico until 1953 when it was decided that it should stay in the South Central Section.

In 1940 the AUA approved the reorganization of its five Branches into eight Sections. This reorganization did not affect the geographic boundaries of the Western Section although it finally and officially removed Colorado from this section.

There are records of a "Pacific Coast Branch of the American Urological Association" as early as 1906. However, as Miley B. Wesson has said, "For sixteen years its existence was comparable to the cowbird that lays its eggs in the nests of others and has them hatched by proxy." Remaining records indicate only joint meetings with the California Medical Association. If abortive or transitory branch societies existed elsewhere in the West, no record of them has been found. Early society secretaries appear to have given little thought to the interest that their successors might have in their activities.

The program of the California Medical Association, published in *California Medicine*, April 18, 1906, is the earliest record we find of a Western urologic meeting. It indicates that the 2 P.M. session of the Genito-Urinary, Syphilis and Skin Section was to be a joint meeting with the Pacific Coast Urological Association. The scientific program consisted of three articles, two on syphilis and one on alopecia areata — not much of a scientific urologic beginning.

For the next three years, the scientific programs, listed as a "joint meeting between the Genito-Urinary Section of the State Society and the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Urological Association," dealt with the usual urologic problems, including a generous

\*In May 1902: Martin Krotoszyner and John C. Spencer, San Francisco; Granville MacGowan, Los Angeles. In 1903: D. R. Rand, Portland; Louis Gross, San Francisco. Other early members: G. S. Peterkin, Seattle; George S. Whiteside and A. E. MacKay, Portland; R. L. Rigdon and Victor Vecki, San Francisco.

sprinkling of articles on the diagnosis and treatment of syphilis and gonorrhea.\*

The Pacific Coast, or Western, Branch was not mentioned again in the California Medical Association programs until 1916, although the 1913 program listed a meeting of the "Urological Section and the American Urological Association," obviously referring to the Branch. After 1916 there was no published mention of the Branch until 1921.

The April, 1921, program of the Medical Society of the State of California noted in the Urological Section program that there would be "a meeting of the Western Branch of the American Urological Association" following the section program. There is no record of the proceedings, but this was the first indication of a reawakened interest in a Western Branch of the AUA, which was to reach fruition four years later.

A meeting held in Los Angeles on November 17, 1921, may have been an outgrowth of this early organizational effort. The cover of the *Los Angeles County Medical Association Bulletin* for that date announced the "Semi-annual meeting of the Western Branch of the American Urological Association to be held November 16-17, Los Angeles." Beneath, in small type, appeared the additional statement: "Joint meeting with the Urological Section of the Los Angeles County Medical Association and the Los Angeles County Medical Association, November 17, 8 P.M." Perhaps it had been decided to hold this interim meeting between State society meetings, hence the designation, "semi-annual." One can only guess. Dr. Wesson has stated that at this meeting Robert V. Day was elected president of the Western Branch and H. A. Rosenkranz, secretary. There is no record of this. They had held these respective offices in the Urological Section of the Los Angeles County Medical Association the year before. There were 18 members of the Los Angeles County Section on Urology at that time.

Five months later, following the April, 1922, California State Society Urological Section meeting, a Western Branch business meeting was held and officers elected. The president was empowered to appoint a committee to formulate bylaws for the organization. Charles P. Mathé, a native of San Francisco and a graduate of the University of California Medical School (1916), was the first president. George W. Hartman, of San Francisco, was elected secretary. It was agreed that the Western Branch would meet thereafter in conjunction with the California State Society urology section. Miley Wesson was present and is the authority for these facts. He is the only one still with us of those who officially became Branch members at this organizational meeting. Robert V.

\*Western urologists on 1906-1909 programs: Herbert C. Moffitt, Dudley Tait, Francis B. Wakefield, R. L. Rigdon, John Campbell Spencer, M. Krotoszyner, E. G. McConnell, and A. B. Grosse, San Francisco; Granville MacGowan and Wesley W. Beckett, Los Angeles; George S. Whiteside, Portland.



Charles P. Mathé, 1891-1969

Day was present but made no mention of the meeting in Los Angeles five months earlier. He apparently was satisfied to see the Branch making progress. Wesson was the moving spirit in this 1922 organizational meeting. Day recognized Wesson's influence and ability just as Wesson later publicly acknowledged Day's political acumen. Wirt B. Dakin said that when he inquired of Day about work that he might do in organized urology, Day told him to see Wesson, that he would put him to work.

Wesson credits Day's "political sagacity" and his own "vision" for the final successful efforts to develop a viable Western Branch, and there is much evidence to support this. Some basic rules laid down by them were that all physicians whose practices were 50 per cent urology in the 11 Western states would be invited to become members and offices would be rotated among the various geographic areas, seniority and regularity of attendance at meetings being given primary consideration in their choice. It took three years to formulate bylaws; and there is no record of meetings being held during this time.

In 1923 the California Medical Society did not meet because of a joint meeting of the AMA, in San Francisco. Section reports were read by title only. No Branch meeting was convened.

In 1924 a brief business meeting of the Branch officers was held at the Los Angeles Athletic Club during the State Society meeting. The officers were continued



*George W. Hartman, 1879-1957*

in office and the bylaws committee encouraged to get on with their work.

#### Annual Scientific Meetings

Finally, in May, 1925, the first separate scientific meeting of the Western Branch was held. These annual meetings have continued uninterruptedly since that time, with the exception of the war years, 1943 and 1945. The 1976 meeting was the "fifty-second annual meeting."

The May 20, 1925, meeting followed the California State Section meeting, which lasted throughout the day. On the same day at 8 P.M., in the Antler's Club, Yosemite Park Village, the first annual meeting of the Western Branch of the AUA was convened. Charles P. Mathé presided and George W. Hartman was secretary.

Verne C. Hunt, of the Mayo Clinic, who had participated in the state section meeting gave one of the three reports. His title was "The Treatment of the Ureter in the Surgery of Tumors of the Bladder." H. Welland Howard, of Portland, Oregon, reported on "Carcinoma of the Urachus," and Charles S. Vivian, of Phoenix, Arizona, on "The Bloodless Removal of Stones from the Ureter." These section speakers and other urologists present, whether or not members of

the AUA, participated in the meeting just as they had in the formative session in 1922. AUA membership at that time required little more than an application and \$15 fee.

George W. Hartman was elected president to succeed Mathé who had served nominally for three years but presided at only one meeting. George Washington Krotoszyner Hartman received his B.S. degree from the University of California in 1903 and his M.D. degree from Johns Hopkins University in 1908. He obtained his urologic training in the office of Martin Krotoszyner and the clinic of the Polyclinic Hospital, San Francisco. Dr. Hartman's mother was a Krotoszyner. Dr. Krotoszyner has been referred to as "the most erudite urologist in the West" of that day. Until his retirement in 1954, Dr. Hartman was to play an important role for many years in the development of the Western Branch.

Bylaws were adopted at the 1926 meeting and the Western Branch was well launched, although the members were mainly Californians since it was still tied to the California state society meetings. More offices were created to encourage attendance. Louis C. Jacobs, of San Francisco, was elected vice-president, Anders Peterson, of Los Angeles, secretary, and James C. Negley, of Los Angeles, treasurer.

At the second annual meeting in Oakland, in 1926, following the California state society urology section meeting, H. Welland Howard was the guest speaker and the only one present from outside California. Jacobs was advanced to the presidency, Peterson became vice-president, Dakin was elected secretary, and William E. Stevens, of San Francisco, treasurer.

The Council of the Californial Medical Association at their 1926 meeting made a ruling that had much to do with the enduring success of the fledgling Western Branch. They decreed that branch societies of other organizations could no longer hold joint meetings with state society sections. Wesson was chairman of the State Urology Section in 1926 and may have had a hand in this action.

Consequently, the July, 1927, meeting was a unique experiment and helped establish the true Western scope of this new AUA Branch. The meeting was held one day each in Portland, Seattle, and Vancouver. Alexander H. Peacock, of Seattle, was chairman of the Committee on Arrangements. Clinics were held July 5 at St. Vincent's Hospital, Portland; July 6 at Providence Hospital, Seattle; and July 7 at Vancouver Hospital, Vancouver, B.C.

A scientific session was held in Seattle at 1 P.M. on July 6. Thirteen reports were presented by Branch members and three guest speakers. The program, the first printed separately, consisted of a two-page leaflet on paper which Dakin described as "looking like toilet paper."

The previously elected officers were advanced in the chairs at this meeting. However, as a concession to the Pacific Northwest members, whose active participation was recognized by some as essential to the success

of the Branch, Peacock was elected treasurer, the first officer from outside California.

The fourth annual meeting, in 1928, was held in San Francisco and Del Monte. There was a morning surgical clinic at San Francisco Hospital, under the direction of O. S. Fowler, of Denver, Colorado, and Frank Hinman and James R. Dillon, of San Francisco. Eight reports were presented during the afternoon at the San Francisco Medical Society building. The meeting was then moved to Hotel Del Monte, for Friday and Saturday afternoon scientific sessions. Another eleven reports were presented. Guest speakers were Arthur L. Chute, Boston; Edgar G. Ballinger, Atlanta; Albert E. Goldstein, Baltimore; and P. M. Butterfield, New York City.

Entertainment was lavish. There was a banquet for the men at the Bohemian Club in San Francisco and one for the ladies at Hang Far Low Cafe. After an automobile and train trip to Del Monte on Friday, there was a dinner dance, followed on Saturday by a tour of the Seventeen-Mile Drive which culminated in another banquet and dance Saturday night.

Dakin was advanced to the presidency and Stevens to vice-president at this meeting. Peacock was elected secretary and Howard treasurer. This was the first geographic distribution of officers.

Subsequently, however, Washington and Oregon petitioned the AUA for a Northwestern Branch charter. Miley Wesson, a member of the AUA executive committee, realized that there were too few urologists in the Northwest to support an active branch and also



*Wirt B. Dakin, 1883-1975*



Annual Meeting, Western Branch, Seattle, Washington, July 6, 1927: <sup>1</sup>C. C. Kehl, Seattle; <sup>2</sup>W. L. Ross, Tacoma; <sup>3</sup>J. J. Crane, LA; <sup>4</sup>Joseph Walker, LA; <sup>5</sup>E. A. Anderson, Aberdeen; <sup>6</sup>B. G. Scholefield, London; <sup>7</sup>H. W. Howard, Portland; <sup>8</sup>W. K. Turner, Seattle; <sup>9</sup>F. J. Clancy, Seattle; <sup>10</sup>C. Rusche, Hollywood; <sup>11</sup>M. B. Wesson, SF; <sup>12</sup>W. G. Schultz, Tucson; <sup>13</sup>W. B. Parker, LA; <sup>14</sup>H. A. Rosenkranz, LA; <sup>15</sup>L. C. Jacobs, SF; <sup>16</sup>H. A. R. Kreutzmann, SF; <sup>17</sup>R. S. Shepman, SF; <sup>18</sup>G. S. Peterkin, Seattle; <sup>19</sup>F. S. Dillingham, LA; <sup>20</sup>C. P. Mathé, SF; <sup>21</sup>E. F. Chamberlain, SD; <sup>22</sup>J. T. Whitty, Seattle; <sup>23</sup>W. J. Pennock, Spokane; <sup>24</sup>J. S. Thomas, Seattle; <sup>25</sup>J. B. Davis, Denver; <sup>26</sup>E. Bratrud, Minn.; <sup>27</sup>A. B. Hepler, Seattle; <sup>28</sup>H. L. Morris, Detroit; <sup>29</sup>D. D. Corlett, Seattle; <sup>30</sup>Charles Teel, Bellingham; <sup>31</sup>C. L. Hawkins, Taft; <sup>32</sup>A. Peterson, LA; <sup>33</sup>C. F. Engels, Tacoma; <sup>34</sup>W. E. Stevens, SF; <sup>35</sup>W. G. Hartman, SF; <sup>36</sup>W. M. Spitzer, Denver; <sup>37</sup>W. R. Jones, Seattle; <sup>38</sup>F. H. Brush, Yakima; <sup>39</sup>O. R. Nelson, Seattle; <sup>40</sup>W. L. Whitlow, Seattle; <sup>41</sup>H. L. Jacobson, Seattle; <sup>42</sup>F. P. Johnson, Portland; <sup>43</sup>P. A. Rohrer, Seattle; <sup>44</sup>A. H. Peacock, Seattle; <sup>45</sup>A. W. Hunter, Vancouver.

that the effectiveness of a California Branch would be lost if it simply duplicated the state society section. He therefore prevailed on the AUA executive committee to table the matter until there was further discussion of it in the West. He believed that if there was an equitable distribution of offices and activities on a geographic basis, Washington and Oregon would withdraw their petition. They did so the following year, and the Western Branch remained intact.

In 1929 the Northwest was overwhelmed with meetings. The American Medical Association met in Portland, the American Urological Association in Seattle, and the Western Branch in Vancouver. Another Northwesterner was elected to office, Archibald W. Hunter, of Vancouver, who became treasurer. The treasury at that time contained \$229.35, no great legacy.

The scientific meeting was a one-day session. Guest speakers included Robert O. Gutierrez, of New York City, on "Etiology and Pathology of Vesico-Renal Reflux in Urinary Surgery"; Bransford Lewis, of St. Louis, on "Movable Kidney; Its Reality; Its Menace to Health and its Curability"; Oswald S. Lowsley, of New York City, on "Tuberculosis of the Prostate Gland." Clyde W. Collings, of New York City, William A. Spitzer, of Denver, Professor A. von Lichtenburg, of Berlin, Homer Hamer, president of the AUA, and Benjamin A. Thomas, of Philadelphia, were other distinguished visitors and speakers.

One of the highlights must have been a day at the races at Lansdowne Park, Vancouver, B.C., on July 4, 1929. The program of the races prepared for the occasion was a rare work of humor by an unknown author. It caricatured many of the urologists of the day by the horses names, of which they were the alleged owners.

The first race was The American Urological Sweepstakes for a purse of \$10,000, "For Tuberculin Tested Three-year-olds: Beaten non-winners 1 ounce Cocaine 30 min. before race," with entries such as "Renal Stone," owner Prof. V. Lichtenburg, Berlin; "Radium Boy," owner B. L. Barringer, New York City; "Northwest Pioneer," owner A. E. MacKay, Portland; "Lady Killer," owner Wirt B. Dakin; "King Herman," owner H. L. Kretschmer, Chicago; "Ephedrine," owner N. F. Ockerblad, Kansas City; "Minne-Ha-Ha," owner Gilbert J. Thomas, Minneapolis, and "Vibrator Boy," owner A. L. Wolbarst, New York City.

The second race, the President Hamer Handicap, was a \$5000 purse "For Fast Starters — no burrs under the saddle." Some of the entries were "Prostatic Barrier," owned by Johnnie Caulk, of St. Louis; "Methylene Blue," owned by Ben Thomas, of Philadelphia; "Cystoscope Glow," owned by Joe McCarthy, New York City; "Lady Dust," owned by Colonel H. H. Young, Baltimore.

In the third race, The Nephrectomy Handicap, "For horses with only one kidney or renal function under 60 per cent," were entered, "Quaker Oats," owned by Alex Randall, Philadelphia; "Papilloma," owner H. G.

Bugbee, New York City; "Mayo Billy," owner Billy Braasch, Rochester; "Vasotomy," owned by William Belfield, of Chicago.

Horses in the fourth race, the "Doc McCarthy Sweepstakes" for \$8000, were "to have double pyelograms day before race," to qualify.

The fifth race was the "Western Branch AUA Special." The purse was \$12,000 "for three-year-olds and older — ten pound allowance for arteriosclerosis, ringbone, and hypernephroma."

The final race, "The Loco-Motor Ataxia Sweepstakes," \$50,000 purse, was "for twenty-year-olds and older — horses treated with malaria, Tryparsamide, and Bismarsen, 10 pounds extra weight." This race like all the others had eight amusing entries lampooning some of the leading urologists of the country.

In 1930 the sixth annual meeting was held in Los Angeles, in September, with Day as chairman of arrangements and Stevens was president. A trip below the Mexican border to Agua Caliente was part of the entertainment.

Francis A. Goeltz, of Salt Lake City, visited the West Coast in this year and, as a result, decided that Utah's interests lay with the Western rather than the Southwestern Branch to which they had belonged since 1924. They successfully petitioned the AUA executive committee, in 1931, and thus joined the states and Canadian provinces that comprised the Western Branch.

John R. Hand, of Portland, later president of the Section in 1948, was admitted to membership at the 1930 meeting. At this meeting a committee was appointed, consisting of George C. Reinle, George Hartman, and Miley Wesson, as chairman, to revise the bylaws of the Western Branch, now five years old. No copy of the original bylaws has been found; apparently it had not been printed. The new bylaws provided for an executive committee for the first time and set dues at \$5.

These bylaws were adopted at the 1931 meeting in San Francisco. The president at this seventh annual meeting was Alexander Peacock. The newly elected officers were H. W. Howard, president; A. W. Hunter, vice-president; and Frank S. Dillingham, of Los Angeles, secretary-treasurer; the two offices had been combined under the new bylaws. The newly devised executive committee consisted of ex-officio officers and Wesson, Dakin, and Walter G. Schulte, the three elected members.

Wesson was the general arrangements chairman for the 1931 meeting in San Francisco. The main item of entertainment was the football game between the Universities of California and Washington in Berkeley at 2 P.M. This was followed in the evening by a dinner and dance at the St. Francis Hotel.

The eighth annual meeting, in 1932, was held in Portland; H. Welland Howard, president, presided. The registration fee was \$10. Hunter was elected president for the ensuing year. William G. Schultz, of Tucson, replaced Schulte, of Salt Lake City, on the ex-



Robert C. Coffey, 1869-1933

ecutive committee. It was decided that more continuity was needed in the office of secretary-treasurer, and Hartman, a previous secretary and past president, was elected to this office. His predecessors had kept poor records and apparently passed none on to their successors, a fact from which we still suffer.

Another innovation in 1932 also made this a milestone in the history of the Western Branch. Publication of *Transactions* was started in this year. Under the guidance of Hartman all reports were immediately published in *Urologic and Cutaneous Review*. From the same type, the *Transactions* were printed. This was financed by assessing authors the cost of 1,000 reprints plus \$20 for postage. Wesson, a member of the advisory board of *Urologic and Cutaneous Review*, had a hand in these arrangements through the editor, Dr. Solomon C. Martin. He was offered the editorship after Dr. Martin's death but he refused, a fact which he later regretted. The journal ceased publication because of lack of editorial leadership. The roster printed in the first volume of the *Transactions* included 130 members, of whom 7 were Honorary, all elected at the 1932 meeting.

The following comment on the 1932 meeting is "From the Tripod," a column published in *Urologic and Cutaneous Review*: "Despite the unfavorable eco-

nomic situation the attendance was the largest ever recorded at any of the Branch's meetings. Members went by automobile, bus, train, and airplane. One plane started at Dallas, picked up members at Tucson, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and landed them on schedule time." In this year of the depression the treasury reported a balance of \$340.31.

Hunter presided over the ninth annual meeting of the Western Branch, held in his home city, Vancouver, in 1933. *Urologic and Cutaneous Review* commented: "As usual some members exerted themselves to the extreme to be present. One man who was to come on a ship which was wrecked started by automobile, turned that upside down, salvaged the pieces which he turned in for a new car and came merrily along. Another missed a train, a plane and a boat, wrecked his car, but showed up smiling a day late."

A golf tournament was first mentioned as planned entertainment in 1933. It was played the afternoon of the second meeting day at Shaughnessy Heights Golf Club. Incidentally, Wesson ran the golf tournament for several years. Dudley P. Fagerstrom in his 1942 postconvention newsletter stated that it was Wesson who showed them how a golf tournament should be run that year. Later, Donald Charnock ran the tournament for many years. Adolph A. Kutzmann, in his 1950 newsletter referred to Charnock as "Mr. Western Golf Association himself." The Los Angeles Urologic Society recognized Wesson's contribution to the golf tournament by presenting him with a beautiful silver trophy in 1946 at Riverside. This subsequently became the Miley B. Wesson Perpetual Trophy. Charnock was master of ceremonies on this occasion.

The precedent of having the meeting in the home area of the president and rotating the presidency over the geographic area of the Branch, alternating between northern, central, and southern regions, was finally established after 1933.

The *Transactions* for the year 1933 carried the portrait and obituary of Robert C. Coffey who was elected to Honorary membership the previous year after delivering the lead article on "Ureterointestinal Anastomosis." This obituary stated that Dr. Coffey was killed in an aeroplane accident "while answering a call for help from a doctor, Nov. 9, 1933."

The tenth annual meeting was held on April 27 to 29, 1934, in Los Angeles under the presidency of Frank S. Dillingham. The "Tripod" reported "the largest attendance ever." They noted many innovations: "Talkies were made of the group in the morning and displayed at the banquet the following evening, at which the chief entertainment was by the Society's own 15-piece orchestra and singing by talented urologists." Admitted to membership in 1934 was T. Leon Howard, of Denver. Dr. Howard in his ninetieth year attended the 1970 meeting at Camelback Inn, Scottsdale, Arizona, where he reported on bacteriologic observations made early in his career on the etiology of epididymitis. He declared this to be his "final paper."



Miley B. Wesson, 1881 –

The scientific program in 1934 consisted of 27 reports, and clinics at the Los Angeles County Hospital. The roster contained the names of 137 active and associate members. Dillingham noted in his presidential address that AUA members had received copies of the two-volume "History of Urology" prepared under the Association's auspices. It was in the same year that the AUA recommended that the *Journal of Urology* and Waverly Press assume responsibility for publishing the Western Branch *Transactions*, which they did thereafter. The 1934 program for the first time listed four commercial exhibitors, all from Los Angeles.

President-elect Goeltz had planned to have his meeting the following year, 1935, in Salt Lake City or in Yellowstone Park. When it became known that the AUA would hold its 1935 meeting in San Francisco, they realized that the Branch meetings in these areas would suffer. Therefore, Wesson, who was to be president of the AUA in 1935, was advanced to the Branch presidency from secretary, and Goeltz remained president-elect, so that Wesson would be president of both organizations during the meeting in San Francisco. A successful joint meeting with the parent organization was held in San Francisco. Hugh Young gave the Guitéras Lecture at the invitation of President Wesson, breaking the precedent of having a foreign lecturer. Wesson's presidential address before the Western Branch was "History of the Western Branch Society, American Urological Association." He announced that the Western Branch had 151 active and

associate members, of whom all but 26 were present for the joint meeting in San Francisco.

The reports from the San Francisco meeting comprised the first volume of the *Transactions*. Hartman was responsible for their publication as he was for the preceding three volumes published by *Urologic and Cutaneous Review*. Hartman was then chairman of the editorial committee, having been replaced as secretary in 1934 by Negley.

The 1936 meeting was arranged by President Francis A. Goeltz in Salt Lake City, the first time outside the Pacific Coast states. At this meeting Tracy O. Powell applied for membership and reported on, "The Value of Correlating Hormonal Tests with Histological Sections in Tumor of the Testis." This was an outgrowth of his 1935 thesis at the University of California. Ten years later, in 1947, in conjunction with the Los Angeles Urologic Society, he was to organize the first Urologic Postgraduate Convention, which he supervised for twenty-three years. The Western Section and the AUA later were to join in sponsorship, and it became known as the Los Angeles Urologic Research Congress. Other sections have patterned their programs on this prototype. The original Board consisted of Paul Ferrier, cochairman, A. J. Scholl, Ben D. Massey, and Theodore Bergman.

A noteworthy report at the 1936 program was by Franklin P. Johnson, of Portland, on "A New Method of Removing Ureteral Calculi." This introduced the wire stone basket or extractor which Johnson termed a "snare."

Another event was Dakin's first "Believe It or Not" presentation. In 1948 these presentations were published as a book titled, "Urological Believe It or Nots." Interestingly, the most significant "believe it or not" concerned Dakin himself and was not included. This long-time historian of the Western Section and the AUA had made and shown at the 1917 AUA meeting in Chicago, the first urologic motion picture. It ran twenty-two minutes and depicted a suprapubic prostatectomy. The story of its making is the unbelievable part. Since lighting was insufficient in the old Los Angeles County Hospital operating rooms for the slow film then available, the operation was done under the hot summer sun on the hospital roof in 1916, three years after Dakin had come to Los Angeles from Chicago to practice. Dakin's story of the operation, his two vomiting and fainting cameramen, and all of the gory details is a classic.\* The patient, by design, was hardier than most 1916 prostatectomy victims and did well.

At the 1936 meeting Kutzmann became chairman of the editorial committee, the first of many important positions of leadership in urology to be held by him. In 1939 he was elected to the executive committee, and

\*Nation, E. F.: Wirt B. Dakin: the first urologic motion picture, 1917, *Urology* 1: 169 (1973).

in 1944 he succeeded Fagerstrom as secretary-treasurer, a position which he held until he became president-elect in 1953. This is the longest tenure of any one man in this onerous position. After serving as Section president in 1954–1955, he became president of the AUA in 1959. Kutzmann has indeed been the “latter day” stalwart of the Section.

The 1937 meeting was held at Mount Ranier National Park, Albert E. Mackay, of Portland, presiding. The first report on the use of sulfanilamide (Prontylin) to be presented before the Western Branch was given at this meeting by James E. Potter, of Bremerton, Washington.

At this meeting Robert V. Day was elected president of the Western Branch for the following year, after years of “behind the scenes” work. He held his 1938 meeting in Los Angeles. “Male Sex Hormone Therapy” was the theme of his presidential address. This contained an excellent historic summary and review of the chemistry and physiology of androgens. He then presented the clinical benefits derived by some patients suffering from early prostatism from parenterally administered testosterone. This provoked considerable discussion, some of it adverse.

The 1939 volume of the *Transactions* opens with the portrait and obituary of Robert Day, as follows,

Dr. Robert V. Day was born in Indianola, Iowa, June 6, 1876, and attended Indianola High School, Simpson College, and the University of Iowa. He then moved to Los Angeles and entered the medical college of the University of Southern California in 1894, graduating in 1897. The following year he was an intern in the Los Angeles County Hospital and, at the same time, was assistant city health officer in charge of the Contagious Hospital. From 1894 to 1901, he was instructor in chemistry in the University of Southern California and from 1901–1905 was an instructor in medicine. He was a member of the Board of Health of the City of Los Angeles 1903–1904 and in 1904–1905 was city chemist. In 1905–1906 he was professor of urology, Los Angeles College of Physicians and Surgeons. He was an office associate of the late Granville MacGowan and junior attending urologist to Los Angeles County Hospital from 1907–1917; senior attending urologist from 1918–1939; chairman of the urological staff 1930–1937; and chairman of the surgical section 1934–1937.

Dr. Day had been a semi-invalid for several years, but because of his interest in the Western Branch Society, he left a sick bed to attend the annual meeting and passed away the following day.”

Dr. Day participated in the 1939 meeting in discussion of a series of reports and a “wet clinic” dealing with testosterone therapy, then returned home. Dr. Fagerstrom’s postconvention newsletter, his first, noted the sadness at the Saturday session by the telephoned news of the death that morning of Dr. Day at his desk in Los Angeles.

The 1939 meeting was held at Hotel Del Monte. George C. Reinle, of San Francisco, was president. Reinle presented a stimulating, farsighted presidential



Robert V. Day, 1876–1939

address on the threat of socialized medicine and compulsory health insurance. Reinle had been active in California in abortive, pioneering efforts to develop a prepaid health insurance plan supported by the state medical society. For this meeting Albert M. Meads, of Oakland, arranged for twenty scientific exhibits. This was only the second time they were listed in the official program, but it was an activity of growing interest.

In 1939 Negley, who had served as secretary-treasurer since 1937, was replaced by Fagerstrom, who then served until 1944. Following the 1939 convention Fagerstrom refunded to each registrant \$4 of the \$15 registration fee, as his share of the convention surplus. The Branch treasury showed a balance of \$1,214.78.

The 1940 meeting, in Victoria, B.C., was presided over by William L. Ross, Jr., of Yakima, Washington. Rooms at the Empress Hotel for this meeting were \$7 double and \$4 single; 35 of the former and 50 of the latter were reserved for section members. The first Round Table Luncheon was programmed for this meeting and was presided over by O. A. Nelson, of Seattle. The Round Table tradition has been carried on and enhanced over the years. There was a different moderator each year, including T. Leon Howard in 1951, until Wilson Stegeman, of Santa Rosa, California, took it over in 1953. By injecting plenty of his inimitable wit, Stegeman made the Round Table Session



one of the most anticipated parts of the program. He developed its present format. After seven years he relinquished the gavel to Franklin P. Jeppesen, of Boise, Idaho, in 1960. In 1963 the late Edmund Crowley, of Los Angeles, took charge and further molded the Round Table Session until in 1968 poor health forced him to relinquish the responsibility to Stegeman again. After a swan-song appearance in 1969 Crowley's health worsened, and Stegeman once more capably assumed this responsibility in 1970.

In 1953, as a result of a friendly bet, a contribution of \$100 was made for an engraved plaque to be awarded yearly to the winner of the Round Table Session. The cost of the first plaque was \$16.88. I am the proud possessor of this first award.

In 1940 the AUA Executive Committee designated the Branch Societies as Sections, reserving the term Branch for single city organizations. The official program thus bore the designation "Western Section" for the first time. It was at the 1940 meeting in Victoria that a lectureship to memorialize Robert V. Day was conceived. It was not until 1944 that a resolution was passed to fund this lecture, however. It was also at this meeting that Wesson began his fifteen-year service as Chairman of the Editorial Committee and Section representative on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Urology*, the first time section representatives were on the Board of the *Journal*.

Also for the first time in 1940, an initiation fee of \$25 for new members was instituted to enrich the treasury. The dues still were \$5 a year. From the convention surplus for the year, \$2.55 from the \$15 registration fee was refunded to each registrant.

The 1941 meeting was again held at Hotel Del Monte. James C. Negley, who had moved to Glendale, California, presided, arriving at the presidency thirteen years later than he expected. He had been treasurer in 1926 and would have been advanced to secretary if he had been present, becoming president in 1928. In fact, the *Journal of Urology* subsequently carried his name as secretary by mistake. Instead, he was prevented from attending this meeting because of his daughter's emergency appendectomy and, since the rules then forbade the election of an absentee member, Dakin was elected secretary; Negley had to wait until 1941 to achieve the presidency.

The bylaws which had been completely rewritten, more or less in their present form, were enacted in 1941. For the first time they required that members in cities of over 100,000 have a practice of 95 per cent urology and others 75 per cent. The general understanding before this was that all members must have a practice of at least 50 per cent urology.

The 1942 meeting also was at Hotel Del Monte. Albert M. Meads was president. At this meeting, Robert J. Prentiss, of San Diego, who was to be president of the Western Section in 1964, transferred from the North-Central Section. Another future president, Lorne G. Wood, of Vancouver (1960) was elected an associate member in 1942. At this meeting the princi-

pal guest lecturer was Joseph F. McCarthy, on "A Consideration of Essential and Accessory Equipment for Instrumental, Operative and Diagnostic Urology." Another lecturer was Charles B. Huggins who spoke on "Endocrine Relationship of Prostatic Cancer."

No meeting was held in 1943 because of the war. In his Fall newsletter Fagerstrom deplored this fact, and in a very forceful plea stated the case for a 1944 meeting. He even selected the city and presented a tentative program for an abbreviated war-time meeting, without wives and entertainment. The meeting was held at the Sir Francis Drake Hotel, in San Francisco, and there were 79 in attendance. Frederick Brush, of Yakima, Washington, presided.

The 1944 meeting would have been scheduled for the Pacific Northwest, the president's area, but the exigencies of the war made San Francisco seem more feasible. Following the banquet at the Bohemian Club, the usual high jinks were replaced, "in keeping with the time," by the guest lecturer, Edward L. Keyes, Jr., of New York City. Fagerstrom announced this in the preconvention newsletter as the first Robert V. Day Lecture, although no mention was made of this in the official program. At this meeting, the bylaws were amended to allow district representation on the Section Executive Committee for the first time, increasing the elective positions from three to eight.

No meeting was held in 1945, again because of the war. The membership was polled, and the majority voted against it. This was the year that Gilbert J. Thomas was transferred from the North-Central to the Western Section. Dr. Thomas had long been secretary of the Board of Urology and in 1937 was president of the AUA. He remained an active member of the section until his death in 1969.

The 1946 postwar meeting was a memorable one for the Western Section. Under the leadership of Jay J. Crane, of Los Angeles, it was held at the Mission Inn, Riverside, California. Nathaniel G. Alcock, of Iowa City, gave the first programmed Robert V. Day lecture on "The Training of Urologists." He also conducted the Round Table Session. The first Joseph F. McCarthy Essay Award was given to Samuel K. Bacon for the outstanding report by a man in practice less than ten years. Also at this meeting the bylaws were amended to limit presentations to ten minutes instead of fifteen. Milo Ellik, of Long Beach, presented his first report on the use of the looped catheter for extraction of ureteral calculi at this meeting.

The following year, 1947, Dudley Fagerstrom, president, held his meeting in Yosemite Valley. He invited as the Robert V. Day lecturer, R. Campbell Begg, of Johannesburg, South Africa. Dr. Begg spoke on "A Rational Theory of the Causation of Abdominal Distention and Its Application in Urology." The title of Fagerstrom's presidential address was, "Proliferative Tumors of the Ureter and Renal Pelvis with Further Observations on the Significance of Epithelial Nests." He was awarded the McCarthy Certificate, although he was not eligible, of course, for the cash award.

The scientific exhibits committee was under the chairmanship of Henry Weyrauch, of San Francisco. He solicited 37 exhibits for the 1947 meeting. Weyrauch served in this capacity for several years and topped this number only in 1949 when he arranged for 40 scientific exhibits. Many more of the members participated then, although the exhibits were less elaborate than we now expect to see. The technical, or commercial, exhibits usually ranged from 12 to 15 in number.

John R. Hand was president in 1948 and held his meeting in Victoria, B.C. His Robert V. Day lecturer was Clyde L. Deming, of New Haven, Connecticut, on "Correlation of Clinical Experience and Experimental Heterologous Growth of Human Prostatic Carcinoma." The Joseph F. McCarthy Prize Essay award was given to Rollin G. Wyrens, of Seattle, for his article on "Giant Pyonephrosis."

In 1949, Carl R. Rusche, of Hollywood, was president. At his meeting in Coronado, California, he invited Charles B. Huggins, of Chicago, to give the Robert V. Day Lecture on "Present Status of Prostatic Carcinoma." Dr. Rusche, the following year, became the third member of the Western Section to be president of the AUA.

The winner of the McCarthy Prize in 1949 was John W. Dorsey, of Long Beach, for his article on "Solitary Hydrocalyx." Dorsey subsequently was president of the Section in 1967 and president of the AUA in 1970-1971. Interestingly, of five members of the Western Section who have served as president of the AUA, only Granville Davis MacGowan (1913) does not survive at the present time. The others are Miley B. Wesson (1935); Carl R. Rusche (1950); Adolph A. Kutzmann (1959); and John W. Dorsey (1971).

#### Special Lectureships and Funds

The evolution of the special lectureships and funds should be reviewed and recorded before the details are lost or dimmed, although most of this occurred in the last twenty years. Much of the interesting history and many of the important personalities of the Section are involved in the story of the Day, McCarthy, and Wesson Lectures and also should be noted and summed up at this time.

After the death of Dr. Day, in 1939, the Robert V. Day Lecture was established. This has been an annual highlight of the program. Between 1941 and 1944 there were three distinguished guest lecturers, all from New York City: Henry G. Bugbee, 1941; Joseph F. McCarthy, 1942; and Edward L. Keyes, Jr., 1944. Dr. Keyes was listed in the *Newsletter* as the Day lecturer, although the program did not mention this. There were no meetings in 1943 and 1945 because of the war. In 1946 Dr. Nathaniel G. Alcock was the first speaker to be programmed as the Robert V. Day lecturer.

Many of the distinguished urologists of this country, as well as several foreign guests, have given the Day



*Joseph F. McCarthy, 1874-1965*

Lecture since 1946. This is especially appropriate because Day was instrumental in bringing many distinguished guest lecturers to the Western Branch meetings. An honorarium was provided for in the bylaws in 1944 and a fund was established. By the gradual transfer of money from the revolving fund during the ten years that Kutzmann was secretary-treasurer the fund became large enough to be self-supporting; so that only the income is now expended for honorarium and travel expenses of the speaker each year.

Accumulating funds for lectureships was not easy. It began with a pledge made by Wesson at the joint meeting with the AUA in San Francisco, in 1935. There, at the Palace Hotel, it was decided to invite the few exhibitors who had traveled so far, to attend the social functions after payment of the \$15 registration fee. Mr. Willets, of Bard and Company, objected at first because he believed the entertainment was made possible by the exhibitors' payment for their booths. Wesson assured him that all income from commercial exhibits for that meeting and all future Western Branch meetings would be used solely to pay for guest speakers. This income and all profits of conventions thereafter were placed in the revolving fund from which the Day Lecture and subsequent essay competition funds have been built up.

Joseph F. McCarthy, the 1942 Day lecturer, returned his \$500 honorarium to Dr. Meads, then past

president, to be used as a fund to provide an annual prize "to encourage young men to write better papers." He suggested in his letter to Dr. Meads that the winner be given a choice between a cash prize and a framed certificate. He thought that most would choose the latter, thus preserving the fund. Miley Wesson, chairman at that time and until 1954, of the Editorial Committee took charge of this money and established the rules for a competition which Wesson named the "McCarthy Prize Essay Award." A prize of \$100 was offered for the best article by a urologist in practice ten years or less. Three or four years later Wesson appealed to McCarthy for an annual "transfusion" of \$100 for the fund. McCarthy agreed but asked Wesson to "remind me each year."

The first award was made in 1946. Many of the young, and later distinguished, members of the Section have been the recipients of this award. The complete list of winners was published in the annual program through 1970, when it became too lengthy and the Executive Committee decided to publish only the names of the winners for the current and preceding years. It was in 1970 also that multiple prizes first were made available.

When Wesson and others initiated plans in 1953 to raise funds to supplement the dwindling McCarthy Fund reserves (the balance then was \$101.74), Dr. McCarthy wrote:

Your recent letter announcing the appointment of a committee whose objective is the perpetuation of the Joseph F. McCarthy Award is very complimentary and altogether typical of the boys out there. My own feeling has been that retiring from active work it would be more appropriate if one of your members who has made his mark, be named. Nevertheless, whatever your pleasure may be, is mine. Meanwhile, my grateful thanks to all.

Cordially,  
Joe McCarthy

After Dr. McCarthy retired in 1954, he asked Wesson to seek other sponsorship for the award.

The following year, he again expressed his gratitude and philosophy in a letter to secretary, C. M. Stewart, dated New York City, August 1955, as follows:

This very flattering action of your distinguished section is a heartwarming experience to a retired old guy who has nothing but pleasant recollections of fifty years of fights and frolics in the grandest specialty in the field of medicine. All this despite the fact that I felt the honors should go to one now active in the field.

It goes to prove that the spiritual values in life far transcend the material and quite obviously your fine group in their every-day activities, entertain the same thoughts.

With profound appreciation and all the best to our Pals in the West.

Cordially,  
Joe McCarthy

Wesson had already been busy for some time soliciting contributions to the McCarthy Fund from friends

and Section members. The prize had been increased to \$200. By 1954 he had raised \$2810, some from non-medical friends, notably Louis Lurie, the "Emperor of San Francisco," as Wesson called him. Albert M. Meads then chaired a committee, at the instigation of Wesson, to solicit contributions to make this fund self sustaining. In his letter Meads stated the purpose of the contest and noted the unfair competition for young practitioners from residents who were "required to do research along with their clinical training." He expressed the hope and desirability of establishing a separate competition for them. However, this was not to come about until 1969.

In the letter of solicitation from the committee made up of A. M. Meads, chairman, T. A. Davis, M. B. Wesson, and J. Salem Rubin, is found the following interesting statement, obviously composed by Wesson:

The original resectoscope was patented by Dr. Maximilian Stern and included "the cutting of human tissue by means of a moving electrified loop." The instrument was very unsatisfactory because the bladder had to be filled with glycerine, and vision was not good — and the first patient had incontinence. Then Joseph F. McCarthy modified the instrument so that it would cut under water, and the instrument was called the Stern-McCarthy resectoscope and became a "best-seller."

Dr. Stern then announced that all who used the instrument would have to pay him a royalty because of his patent, and he was undecided whether to charge for each operation or by the year. Dr. McCarthy and Fred Wappler persuaded Stern to accept \$10,000 for his patent claims so as to prevent suits against the urologists for infringing on a patent.

The patent is in a safe in New York City, and the users of the McCarthy resectoscope have not had to pay any royalties. Consequently, it is not asking too much that every time a member of the Western Section does a transurethral resection he should set aside \$5 for the Joseph F. McCarthy fund until he has donated \$100. The members, in reality, are not being assessed \$100 to perpetuate the McCarthy fund; they are merely paying royalties that most of them do not know were made unnecessary by Dr. McCarthy and Fred Wappler."

Despite this very persuasive argument the efforts of Dr. Meads' committee, with the help of Secretary Stewart, were not too fruitful. They succeeded in raising about \$4000 by the time of the Victoria meeting in 1954.

At about this time Wesson became disillusioned with the Section and exerted himself no more in behalf of the fund. This occurred because a group of the younger members felt that more of the offices should be given to younger men and campaigned on the issue. As a result, Dr. Wesson was replaced on the Editorial Committee by a younger man. The disheartening part of this from Wesson's view was that it meant that he would be retired from the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Urology* the following year, after fifteen years. Wesson had helped prepare articles for the *Journal*, at

the request of Dr. Young, since shortly after its inception in 1917, while in training at Johns Hopkins. After moving to San Francisco in 1921, he retained his proprietary feeling about the position. He wrote in 1959:

It [the Section] was my baby that I nursed from 1922, until esprit de corps was destroyed . . . at Victoria in 1954. In the beginning Bob Day controlled the politics, but I had the vision, and we made a good team in building up an organization primarily to help the man in the boondocks.

Our bylaws and constitution have all been written in my office and forgetting Plato's teachings, I tried to make the Section too democratic, against Bob's wise judgment. . . . I wanted the majority of the offices to go to younger men while the policy-making offices were to be held by the more experienced men. . . . I lost all interest in my "baby" at the Victoria meeting.

Unknowingly the bylaws which he had written would one day deprive him of the position he cherished most: Western Section representative on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Urology*. It stipulated that the chairman of the Editorial Committee was automatically the Section representative on the Board of the *Journal*.

Wesson's interest in the Western Section did not lapse completely or for long; nor did the rancor of the Victoria and subsequent Coronado meetings prevent the Section membership, without a dissenting vote, from later memorializing Wesson, during his lifetime. They established a Resident's Essay Competition, long one of his dreams, in his name, in 1969. Funds were set aside to provide income to allow at least two prizes annually for competing urologic residents. The first awards were made in 1970 and Miley Wesson was present, in his eighty-ninth year, to make the awards and congratulate the winners.

Furthermore, it was through efforts originally initiated by Wesson that Frederick Wallace, of American Cystoscope Makers, Inc., in 1966 came to the rescue of the diminishing McCarthy fund with a transfusion of \$2500. The Executive Committee finally made the fund completely self-sustaining by the transfer of sufficient funds from the revolving fund in 1969, at the same time that they established the Miley B. Wesson Resident's Essay Competition.

#### Recent Developments

Another milestone was reached in 1960. In that year the Executive Committee decided to discontinue publication of the *Transactions*; volume 27, 1960, was the last. Publication had become too expensive to justify

continuation since the material published in later years duplicated that which appeared in the *Journal of Urology*. Discussions had not been included for years. Only brief abstracts of papers not accepted by the *Journal* could be printed. Fagerstrom had pointed out these problems in a newsletter in 1939; they were discussed repeatedly by the Executive Committee over the years. Action did not come until costs had more than doubled by 1960, however. The respective Editorial Committee chairmen had served as editors of the *Transactions* from 1932 through 1960, namely: Hartman, volumes 1 through 4; Kutzmann, volumes 5 through 7; Negley, volume 8; Wesson, volumes 9 through 22; Wood, volumes 23 through 25; Nation, volumes 26 (mislabelled 27) and 27.

Another development in January, 1961, was the incorporation of the Western Section. The incorporators were Charles M. Stewart, James Ownby, Jr., and John W. Dorsey. The first Board of Directors, in addition to these men, were: Lorne G. Wood, Frederick D. Conroy, Tate Mason, and Clarence V. Hodges.

A later development also should be noted. The work and responsibilities of the office of secretary-treasurer increased enormously as the membership trebled after the war. Charles Montgomery Stewart carried the burden magnificently for six years after Kutzmann relinquished it in 1953. He was followed by John W. Dorsey who served admirably and tirelessly until 1965. When the author (E. F. N.) was elected secretary-treasurer in that year, the Executive Committee decided that the time had come to centralize the activities of the Western Section by hiring an executive secretary to assist the secretary-treasurer. Mr. Frank J. De Santis became the first to hold this post, in which he continues to function efficiently, permitting the secretary-treasurer, at the present time Robert B. Boughton, of La Jolla, to supervise the work and serve as chairman of the Program Committee, in addition to his many other duties.

After the fifty-second annual meeting of the Western Section, in 1976, there were 880 members and applicants. Many of these have contributed significantly to the Western Section. Not all of these contributions have been acknowledged in this brief review. We bow to all of those who have been overlooked. However, each Western Section member owes a considerable debt to those stalwarts who were mentioned most often in this narrative for the existence and viability of the Western Section in American Urology.

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