The New England Journal of Medicine

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VOLUME 242	JANUARY	12, 1950 NUMBER 2
The Practicing Physician in the Field of Preventive Medicine		Aseptic Intestinal Decompression During Surgery
The Effect of Nasal and Sinus Surgery upon th Manifestations of Allergy		Medical Progress: Toxicology (Concluded) 56 Joseph T. Walker
Fatal Agranulocytosis Following Therapy with "Presidon" (3,3-Diethyl-2,4-Dioxotetra hydropyridine), a New Sedative Hypnotic	c	Case Records of the Massachusetts General Hospital
Albert H. Covner and Seymour L. Halpern	, 47	Dogged Doctors
Quinidine as a Cause of Thrombocytopenic Purpura		Asthma and the Paranasal Sinuses
Massachusetts Medical Society	. 70	Books Received
Correspondence	. 71	Notices

Entered as second-class matter, November 16, 1932, at the post office at Boston, Massachusetts, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Berens on the Eye and Its Diseases

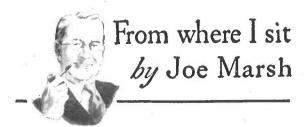
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A Tonic For The Missus

The missus came marching in with a new hat yesterday. She was as happy as a circus poster.

I've learned one thing about the hats she buys. A hat is a tonic to her. If she's feeling blue, nothing gives her a lift like a new hat. Now, I could trade in my old grey fedora without raising my blood pressure a notch. But I'll admit that more than once I've bought a new briar pipe I didn't need—just because life was getting a little bit monotonous.

With Buck Howell it's something else again. When Buck is feeling low, he gets over it by blowing on a brokendown clarinet he hasn't mastered in twenty years.

From where I sit, different people are always going to respond to different things in different ways. So let's keep a friendly understanding of what other folks get out of a new hat, an old clarinet, a chocolate soda or a temperate glass of sparkling beer or ale now and then.

Joe Marsh

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For the Surgeon

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From where I sit by Joe Marsh

I Have A "Close Squeak"!

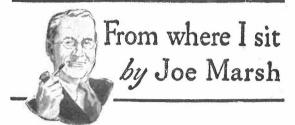
Spent last Saturday morning wandering all over the house. Wherever I went—upstairs or down—I kept hearing a "squeak." Couldn't find out where it was coming from until noontime when the missus came home from her weekly shopping.

"Listen," I says to her, "hear that squeak?" I started quiet-like across the kitchen and there it went again! "Joe Marsh," she laughs, "that is nothing but your suspender clips rubbing back and forth when you walk!" And darned if it wasn't!

From where I sit, I'd been letting a little thing become a serious problem. Like some little difference of opinion or taste will start off a great big argument. I may prefer a temperate glass of beer with my dinner—while the missus likes tea—but we figure that no two people have exactly the same likes and dislikes. So, why get all "het up" about it?

The moral is, check your suspenders—and check your temper when it comes to little things.

Joe Marsh



One for the Books!

Noticed the Missus had a red ribbon tied around her finger at breakfast one morning last week. "What's that for?" I asked. "Memory slipping?"

"It's not for me," she answers, "it's to remind you, and everybody else who asks what it's for, to contribute to the Woman's Club Library Fund. We need \$200 and we figured we'd get more help if we could get people to ask us about it."

Well, as it turned out, the red ribbon worked just fine. The ladies are having the library all fixed up—and there's enough money for some new books, too.

From where I sit, it would be a fine thing if we had some sort of private reminder when we forget the rights of others. Like when we start telling them how to practice a profession or what to choose for a beverage. I like a travel book and a temperate glass of beer—while you may prefer a cup of tea with a historical novel. But let's not "put the finger" on one another.

Joe Marsh

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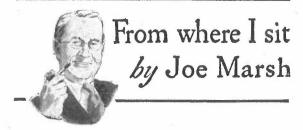
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Sure You Haven't a "Blind Spot"?

As I was driving down Main Street last Saturday, another car swung out right in front of me. It turned out to be Buck Blake. He wasn't going fast. It was just that he had something else on his mind at that particular moment.

Buck's really one of the nicest fellows I've ever known. But, sometimes he gets to day-dreaming on the road. He sort of gets a "blind spot" to what's going on about him!

Now, lots of normally considerate folks have their "blind spots." It could be anything from day-dreaming while driving a car to humming out loud at the movies.

From where I sit, it's mighty important to be on guard against your own "blind spots." The other fellow has a right to his "share of the road," too—whether it's having a taste for a temperate glass of sparkling beer or a desire to listen to some classical music if he wants to.

Joe Marsh

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NOTICES (Concluded from page 746)

May 23-27. American Psychiatric Association. Page 668, issue of April 21.

May 24-26. Massachusetts Medical Society. Annual Meeting. Worcester Memorial Auditorium, Worcester.

May 24-26, Massachusetts Physicians' Art Association. Page 588, issue of April 7.

MAY 26-28. American Goiter Association. Hotel Loraine, Madison, Wisconsin.

May 30-June 3. International Congress on Rheumatic Diseases. Page 800, issue of November 18.

June 1-3. Academy of Neurology. Page 588, issue of April 7.

JUNE 2-5. American College of Chest Physicians. Page 490, issue of March 24.

JUNE 3-5. Christian Medical Society. Page xv, issue of April 14.

JUNE 20-23. Annual Conference of Health Officers and Public Health Nurses. Page xvii, issue of February 3.

June 20-23. American Society of Medical Technologists. Page 528, issue of March 31.

JUNE 30-JULY 2. American Association of Railway Surgeons. Page 490, issue of March 24.

September 6-10. American Congress of Physical Medicine. Page xiii, issue of March 24.

September 28-30. Mississippi Valley Medical Society. Page 1060, issue of December 30.

OCTOBER 8-15. American Society of Clinical Pathology. Page xiii, issue of March 24.

NOVEMBER 2. New England Obstetrical and Gynecological Society. Hotel Somerset, Boston.

DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETIES

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May 11.

NORFOLK

May 11. Annual Meeting.

Calendar of Boston District for the Week Beginning Thursday, May $12\,$

FRIDAY, MAY 13

- *9:00-10:00 a.m. Experiences with Grafting Procedures in Vascular Surgery. Dr. Charles A. Hufnagel. New England Center Hospital (Joseph H. Pratt Diagnostic Hospital).
- *9:00 a.m.-12:00 m. Combined Medical and Surgical Staff Rounds. Peter Bent Brigham Hospital.
- *12:00 m. Clinicopathological Conference. Margaret Jewett Hall, Mt. Auburn Hospital, Cambridge.
- 12:00 m.-1:00 p.m. Clinicopathological Conference (Boston Floating Hospital). Joseph H. Pratt Diagnostic Hospital.
- *1:30 p.m. Tumor Clinic, Out-Patient Department, Mt. Auburn Hospital, Cambridge.

Monday, May 16

- *11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Chest X-Ray Conference. South End Health Unit, 57 East Concord Street, Boston. Dr. Cleaveland Floyd in charge.
- *12:15-1:15 p.m. Clinicopathological Conference. Main Amphitheater, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital.

TUESDAY, MAY 17

- *9:00-10:00 a.m. Rheumatoid Spondylitis. Dr. Edward H. Fischer. New England Center Hospital (Joseph H. Pratt Diagnostic Hospital).
- *12:15-1:15 p.m. Clinicoroentgenological Conference. Peter Bent Brigham Hospital.
- *1:30-2:30 p.m. Pediatric Rounds. Burnham Memorial Hospital for Children, Massachusetts General Hospital.

Wednesday, May 18

- *11:00 a.m.-12:00 m. Medical Rounds. Amphitheater, Children's Hospital.
- *12:00 m.-1:00 p.m. Clinicopathological Conference (Children's Hospital). Amphitheater, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital.
- *2:00-3:00 p.m. Combined Clinic by the Medical, Surgical and Orthopedic Services. Amphitheater, Children's Hospital.

Advertisement



Duke Gets His Tractor

Duke Thomas bought a farm with the money he'd saved in the Service, but he couldn't get a tractor. He needed it badly, but was tenth on the local dealer's list.

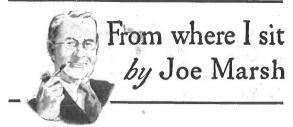
"Tell you what," old man Peters says. "If those nine fellows ahead of you agree, you'll get the next one I get in." "No, thanks," says Duke, "I'll just take my turn."

But old Peters mails out nine postcards. And the other day he tells Duke his tractor will be in next week. "I simply wrote the facts to the fellows ahead of you. They decided it."

From where I sit, it's that spirit of understanding that helps make our democracy so great. Understanding for the other fellow's problems and respect for the other fellow's rights—whether it's his right to earn a living, his right to cast his vote against your candidate, or even his right to enjoy a moderate, friendly glass of beer or ale—if and when he chooses. Let's always keep it that way!

Joe Marsh

^{*}Open to the medical profession.



Who's A Foreigner?

While I'm waiting for a haircut a couple of days ago, Slim Hartman lets slip with a crack about those "foreigners" who recently moved in down by the depot.

"Now wait a minute, Slim," snaps Doc Sherman. "Don't forget we're all 'foreigners' more or less. Some of our families have simply been here *longer* than others. But even if they came over on the Mayflower, they were foreigners to the Indians."

Slim gets a little red and you could see that Doc had him. "And the reason they came here," he goes on, "was to find freedom to do and think as they wanted to, just so long as they didn't tramp on any of the rights of the other fellow."

From where I sit, America became the great land it is today through our being tolerant of different people and different tastes—whether it's a taste for square dancing or waltzing, radio or movies, goat's milk or a temperate glass of sparkling beer.

Joe Marsh

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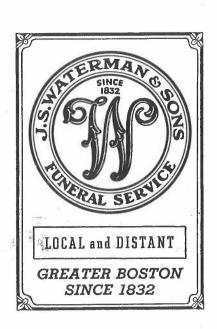


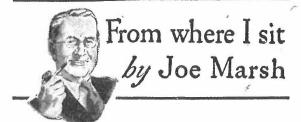
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Bunny's Story Had a Nice "Ring" to It

"Bunny" Baker—our cute blonde secretary over here at the newspaper —showed up late for work the other morning and "scooped" us all.

Bunny came in carrying a big box of cigars under her arm and, without a word, went around dropping a cigar off at each desk. Finally, when we were all but bursting with curiosity, Bunny told us what was going on. She held up her left hand and proudly displayed a lovely diamond ring on her third finger.

"It's a boy," she said. "Six feet two, a hundred ninety-six pounds."

From where I sit, Bunny's way of announcing her engagement showed real ingenuity. And ingenuity—doing things in a better and different way is a typical American trait. Freedom of expression, freedom to work how and where we please . . . even a little thing like the freedom to choose a glass of beer after a day's work—these are some things that make our nation so "engaging."

toe Marsh

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