THE SIXTEENTH MILE-STONE

At Hot Springs last year when the question of the 1922 meeting place came up for discussion, a committee from Chattanooga headed by Dr. John B. Steele presented the invitation and claims of that City. Dr. Steele said he felt like a young man of whom he had once heard who was returning home in the dead of night very much the worse for the evening’s entertainment. He passed a lighted dance hall and decided to participate in the merriment. The bouncer at the door, espying his unsteady gait, gently but firmly threw him down stairs. He arose and ascended sweetly again only to be more forcibly ejected. After a fourth ejection he sat miserably at the foot of the stairs and sobbed: “I know what is the matter, mister. You d-don’t want me up there!”

Chattanooga, the committee stated, had four times invited the Association to meet with it, and had been four times refused.

The Council deemed the story amusing but inapplicable. However, it voted that it was high time that the Association revisit the city where it had received its birth certificate. And no one now doubts the wisdom of that decision.

The Chattanooga meeting vindicated itself before all judges. The City proved that it had ample hotel facilities, if a little doubling in rooms were resorted to; that meeting places for the various sections were ample in size and conveniently located. And it demonstrated to the satisfaction of all that a large resort and tourist town with hustling industrial assets as well, makes an ideal convention city. Future gatherings will have to bestir themselves mightily to equal the pace set by Chattanooga. The attendance of 1781 was almost record-breaking, being exceeded only by the Atlanta convention in 1916.

It is difficult to do justice to the untiring work of the local committees. They scored a hundred per cent from every angle. Always available, always approachable, and always helpful, they earned the admiration of all. The Information Bureau also did yeoman service.

Visitors were warm in their praise of the cordiality of Chattanooga, the excellence and fairness of the hotels and restaurants and the unmatched grandeur of its scenic and historic motor trips.

More ladies were in attendance than ever before, which was fortunate, as there were many entertainments provided for them by the hospitable citizens of Chattanooga.

The programs of the eighteen sections were of a high order of scientific excellence. The papers will appear in the JOURNAL during the coming year.

This account would not be complete without a word about the scientific exhibits, which were the best ever presented at an Association meeting. The awards were: for the best exhibit by a physician, to Dr. Vilray P. Blair, St. Louis, Mo.; for the best exhibit by a medical school, to Vanderbilt School of Medicine, Department of Pathology; and for the best exhibit by a public health agency, to the Alabama State Board of Health, with honorable mention to the South Carolina State Board of Health.

Commercial exhibits likewise came in for their share of praise. They were well represented and attractively gotten up.

The three outstanding official acts of the meeting were (1) the endorsement of the report of the special committee declaring Crawford W. Long, of Georgia, the discoverer and first employer of sulphuric ether as a general anesthetic, and requesting the publication in book form of the data from which these conclusions were reached.

(2) The Association, with no ill-will toward its “Big Sister,” the American Medical Association, went on record unani-
mously as opposing the recommendation of the American Medical Association’s retiring President, Dr. Hubert Work, now being investigated by a special committee, that the United States be subdivided into small groups of states for sectional subordinate medical societies.

(3) There was the establishment of two new sections, namely, Section on Dermatology and Syphilology and Section of Medical Directors of Southern Life Insurance Companies.

(4) The meeting commended the work of the Louisiana State Medical Society in initiating a movement for the erection of a home for indigent physicians.

The Association has held many conventions, but it does not hope to meet with kinder, more cordial, or more efficient entertainment than that furnished by Chattanooga, which well merits its nickname, “The Dynamo of Dixie.”

A DEBT NOT PAYABLE IN CURRENT EXCHANGE

From the outset the development of the Southern Medical Association has been the result of the combined efforts of many loyal physicians. It has attained a phenomenal development in a magically short time because it has been built upon warm friendships of men many of whose interests and problems were in common.

At the beginning of the present year a request was sent out by the Association to a small list of section officers and others asking for editorial material or suggestions, which immediately met with response. The request was made as a favor to the Association, from those who were already serving it. For the material sent, which ranged all the way from the suggestion of a subject to a full-fledged, well-written, scientific editorial, the JOURNAL now wishes to make grateful acknowledgment.

Without this assistance from men of divers points of view, the readers of the JOURNAL would have found less variety of subject matter in the editorials, a much less authoritative, handling of the subjects taken up, and less ably written articles. The best editorials were those which were contributed by the JOURNAL’s friends, and only a Council ruling to the effect that editorials may not be signed, prevents full and specific acknowledgment of their authorship now.

The JOURNAL feels greatly appreciative of those who worked from interest in their subject and in the JOURNAL without expectation of credit. Alphabetically, those who contributed editorials or data for them were:

Dr. Lucius Burch, Nashville, Tenn.
Dr. Willis Campbell, Memphis, Tenn.
Dr. H. R. Carter, Washington, D. C.
Dr. L. R. DeBuys, New Orleans, La.
Dr. Theodore J. Dimitry, New Orleans, La.
Dr. Oscar Dowling, New Orleans, La.
Dr. Thompson Frazer, Asheville, N. C.
Dr. L. D. Frieses, Memphis, Tenn.
Dr. Julius Friedenwald, Baltimore, Md.
Dr. Andrew L. Glaze, Birmingham, Ala.
Dr. Thos. A. Groover, Washington, D. C.
Dr. Calvin R. Hannah, Dallas, Tex.
Dr. Seale Harris, Birmingham, Ala.
Dr. Oliver W. Hill, Knoxville, Tenn.
Dr. Elizabeth Kane, Memphis, Tenn.
Dr. J. E. Knighton, Shreveport, La.
Dr. T. W. Moore, Huntington, W. Va.
Dr. L. J. Moorman, Oklahoma City, Okla.
Dr. W. A. Mulherin, Augusta, Ga.
Dr. A. W. Ralls, Gadsden, Ala.
Dr. Stewart R. Roberts, Atlanta, Ga.
Mr. William Ropes, Late San. Eng., Int. Health Board, New Rochelle, N. Y.
Dr. Loyd Thompson, Hot Springs, Ark.
Dr. George T. Tyler, Greenville, S. C.
Dr. Chas. Watterston, Birmingham, Ala.
Dr. W. T. Woolton, Hot Springs, Ark.

The Association’s JOURNAL is far too great and useful for the ideals of the many specialties employing it as their official organ to be expressed by one man. It can fulfill its mission best by being the mouthpiece of the members collectively and individually. Suggestions and criticisms are at all times welcomed.