

peaceful long. Several hours later—Dry Hill on the phone. Report from the nurse about Molly: "Come at once. Bleeding, possible central placenta previa." I hurried in my preparations. My horse was roughshod; and I squeezed into my bags several specimen tubes, one containing normal saline. The mare was excited as usual, but my dinner was disturbed also, so we were even. We made the trip without mishap.

Our gloom dispelled as we neared the cabin, as it meant a fire for me, and possibly a stall for the mare, if she could be easy with her heels for a while. As I heard the report from the nurse, I thawed externally and chilled internally—multipara; 37 weeks gestation; moderate, painless, bleeding; pulse quick, but of fair volume. After opening my bags, we assembled packing, instruments for packing, and gloves. I examined. A brisk hemorrhage verified my findings. We packed and watched. The hemorrhage was of short duration. The general condition of the patient responded to an opiate. We decided to chance it. Yes, hospital. Well, in short, four people went up and down the creek, and, finally, sixteen volunteer stretcher-bearers. The stretcher had been made—two long, husky saplings with several cross slats. By this time a heavy snow was falling, taking the bite from the wind, but making it bad underfoot.

At last the procession started toward Hyden. I went ahead, to arrange for the patient. In due time I rode up to the hospital, and disturbed the cat. A sleepy dog scowled. But the staff reaction was more active. Fires to be poked and jabbed, pans to be boiled! The sleepy operator said she could get the surgeon at Hazard. The county health officer was aroused, to come and match the blood specimen I had brought back. The staff volunteered the blood.

When I saw adequate commotion, I again set out for my patient. What if she had been held up along the way! I did not see the trek up that stretch from Jones to Asher's Branch—the roughest I know. But I saw their pine flairs on Lick Branch, a beautiful beech grove. It is one of the few spots where even the animals hurry through in awe. The flares outlined the nurse in advance. Fine, so far, she "burred." The men were mudding it up a little knoll. Molly seemed snug on her stretcher. The crunch, slush, in and out of mud, calf deep, outer surface frozen; feet slipping in and out, but up and on; men's voices; the cracking of the brush; even the dog, with his steamy expirations. It seems fanciful now, but I pondered on sounds for at least two minutes.

Well, in short, we arrived. Molly said she was too warm! The men beamed and steamed, as they thawed out from the knees down and, inwardly, with hot liquids. Everything was in readiness. A Cæsarian section was done, and little five pound-fourteen ounce Jane came first, a previous placenta second.

And so for "organisation." Need I say more?

THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS COMMITTEE.

The International Red Cross Committee in Geneva has addressed an appeal to both parties in Spain urging them to stop bombing open towns as the victims of such attacks are mostly non-combatants. The Committee invites them urgently to consider the possibility of taking a reciprocal pledge to that effect.

Alas! There is little hope of either of the combatants taking this humane advice. Life is becoming very cheap in this world.

Lady Linlithgow's appeal for the King-Emperor's Anti-Tuberculosis Fund in India has brought contributions exceeding Rs. 22 lakhs (approximately £165,000).

THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION.

The Annual Report of the International Health Division of the Rockefeller Foundation is always one to which we look forward with interest, and that for 1936, just received, contains a record of good work done and of success achieved.

The aim of the Report has been first to meet the needs of readers with a special interest in public health, and, secondly, to provide for reference purposes a systematic record in fair detail, of current International Health Division projects.

"The Report includes brief accounts of articles published by staff members in 1936 and the early part of 1937, representing the results of field and laboratory studies of yellow fever, malaria, influenza, scarlet fever, tuberculosis, yaws, rabies, and other diseases.

"The complete programme for 1936 has consisted of research in special problems and at surmounting difficulties in connection with the control of certain diseases and the adaptation of public health services to the needs of different localities; finally, assistance to public health educational centres and maintenance of a fellowship programme aimed at keeping up the supply of adequately trained personnel, on whom, in the final analysis, the ultimate success of any program in public health must rest."

The Report opens with an appreciation and portrait of the late Dr. Wray Lloyd, whom it describes as an exceptional person. From his student days he showed a fertile imagination and was indefatigable in the pursuit of scientific knowledge. His work was unusually productive of important results. "Probably the most significant and original work of his brief but highly successful career was his successful demonstration that the virulence of yellow fever virus could be modified at will in tissue cultures. As a result of studies carried on at the Laboratory in New York between 1933 and 1935, he succeeded in producing profound reduction in the power of the virus to injure the abdominal viscera, and recently one of the cultures which he started has been shown to have largely lost its neurotropic property also, without being deprived of its immunising power. Thus his efforts have been crowned with success and a new principle has been established."

"In regard to influenza in 1936, the studies began during 1934 and 1935 at the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research were taken over by the International Health Division Laboratories. . . . Working concurrently, these investigators, and the British at the National Institute for Medical Research, have pursued their studies on various phases of the influenza problem and have made substantial progress towards answering some of the questions which must be solved if future pandemics are to be controlled."

So the fascinating story continues. Patient investigations wresting secrets which, it is hoped, may eventually rob diseases of their dread power. Investigation made possible by the financial support given by the Rockefeller Foundation. Wealth could hardly be applied to a better purpose.

Education of Public Health Nurses.

One section of the Report is devoted to the "Education of Public Health Nurses," concerning which we read: "In extending aid to education for public health nurses, the International Health Division is guided by certain general objectives which include financial divorcement of nursing education from hospital nursing service; incorporation of the public health idea into the general nursing course from the start; emphasis on a broader cultural, social and scientific basis for nursing education, practice in well-organised rural and city health units as a regular feature of the undergraduate preparation in nursing." Instances are given of experimental courses now being tried out in different parts of the world with financial help from the Rockefeller Foundation.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)