

The MEDICAL WAY

Covering the Field of

*General Medicine, Surgery, Gynecology and Obstetrics, Pediatrics,
Orthopedics, Ophthalmology, Otolaryngology and Dermatology*

Saul Hertz, M. D.

(1905 - 1950)

By **DR. SOLOMON R. KAGAN**

Roxbury, Mass.

A COLORFUL personality, a charming figure, a dynamic research worker, teacher, and practitioner was Dr. Saul Hertz. He was born in Cleveland, Ohio, April 20, 1905, received his A.B. from the University of Michigan in 1925, and his M.D. from Harvard Medical School in 1929. He was an intern and resident physician at Mount Sinai Hospital in Cleveland (1929-31); Dalton Scholar, attached to the Thyroid Clinic, assistant in medicine at Mass. General Hospital (1931-43); research fellow in medicine, Henry Pickering Wolcott fellow, assistant in medicine, instructor in clinical pathology and research associate in medicine at Harvard Medical School (1934-43); and research associate in medicine at Mass. Institute of Technology, attached to the Nuclear Physics Department (1939-43).

He was on leave for military service at the United States Naval Reserve, Medical Corps, serving as a commander in the U. S. Navy (1943-46). From 1946



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to 1948 he was instructor in medicine at Harvard Medical School, from 1946 to 1948 associate in medicine at Beth Israel Hospital, and from 1947 to 1948 associate in medical research at the same institution.

Dr. Hertz published important works in his chosen field. He was the author of some 30 scientific publications, dealing mainly with topics in endocrinology and especially in thyroid physiology and

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When Several Physicians Are Summoned

WHEN several physicians have been summoned in a case of sudden illness or of accident, the first to arrive should be considered the physician in charge. However, as soon as is practicable—or on the arrival of the acknowledged personal or family physician—the first physician should withdraw.

Should the patient, his family, or his responsible friend wish some one other than he who has been in charge of the case, the patient or his representative should advise the personal or family physician of his desire.

When, because of sudden illness or accident, a patient is taken to a hospital without the knowledge of the physician who is known to be the personal or family physician, the patient should be returned to the care of the personal or family physician as soon as is feasible.

Doctor's Dilemma

A DOCTOR in Suffolk, England, with 4,000 patients on his health panel has become fed up with nationalized health. To each patient recently he sent the following mimeographed letter:

"Are you bald? Let me give you a certificate for a wig.

"Are your rations proving too much for your waistline? Let me introduce you to the latest in State corsets with a certificate.

"Are you short of whiskey, brandy, fats, meats, glucose? Let me give you a certificate.

"Are you short of petrol? So am I.

"Is your 44-hour week too much strain? Do let me give you a certificate.

"Can I give you an exemption from sitting on jury? Do you want to vote by post in the next election? Let me help you.

"Do you want rubber tires, utility furniture, extra coal, more paraffin? I have lots of certificates.

"Do you know you must fill in Form 24A if you want to have a baby?

"Are you ill? For God's sake don't call me in! I'm too busy signing certificates!"

* * *

Flora: "Only yesterday they took my poor brother off to the hospital."

Dora: "What are they going to do for him?"

Flora: "They're going to operate."

Dora: "What for?"

Flora: "Four hundred dollars."

Dora: "What did he have?"

Flora: "Four hundred dollars."

Dora: "What was the complaint?"

Flora: "No complaint. Everybody was satisfied."

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thyroid disease and its treatment. He did pioneer work in the field of the application of radioactive substances to medicine and originated the tracer and therapeutic applications of radioactive iodine. He performed his researches in collaboration with A. Roberts and R. D. Evans.

In collaboration with other investigators he described the use of radioactive iodine in a series of articles which started in 1938. He also contributed several chapters to a standard text on endocrinology. He made extensive studies of radioactive iodine in the treatment of hyperthyroidism, in thyroid cancer, and also in the production of total thyroidectomy in the treatment of certain cases of heart disease.

He also investigated the effect of thyroid hormone on growth with Dr. Carlos Galli-Mainini in 1941. He described the blood picture in exophthalmic goiter with Dr. J. Lerman in 1942, and the effect of pituitary injections on the parathyroid and thyroid in 1934 with Dr. Alfred Cranes. With Dr. J. H. Means, he studied the nutritional factors in Graves' disease. In 1946 Dr. Hertz presented and published a plan for the analysis of the biologic factors involved in thyroid carcinogenesis. He also studied the application of radioactive phosphorus and the influences of hormones on cancer as displayed by isotope studies.

Achievements Recognized

Dr. Hertz was the director of the Radioactive Isotope Research Fund and Institute of Boston. In recognition of his achievement, he was elected to honorary membership in Sigma XI and was a member of many medical and biological societies including the American Society for Experimental Pathologists, Harvard Biological Society, Ass'n for the Study of Internal Secretions; American Ass'n for the Study of Goiter, American Society for Clinical Investigation, Mass. Medical Society and a fellow of the AMA.

He was particularly interested in the medical aspects of atomic energy, and organization of defense procedures in relation to the possible use of atomic energy in case of war. He was appointed in charge of the Radioactive Isotope Laboratory at the Mass. Woman's Hospital in Boston, where he died suddenly on July 28, 1950.

Dr. Hertz was a man of high principles and courage. He was a brilliant student and researcher, and devoted his life to scientific work. He was well versed in Hebrew science