

whether he had any idea how the bill was working in England, Dr. Mongan said:

A recent letter in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* said that many there were for and many against it; they didn't actually know whether it was working well or not. It has not cleaned up the slums. It has also put a lot of detail on the doctor, who has to make numerous reports. Everybody who is sick is catalogued.

MR. WASHBURN: Are you a general practitioner?

Ans. Yes. I practise in Somerville. I am one of the visiting physicians of the Somerville Hospital.

P. S.—Since this hearing was held, a report comes from England that Lloyd George says this is no time to discuss health insurance.

NOTES FROM THE DISTRICT SOCIETIES.

DISTRICT CORRESPONDENTS.

Berkshire, A. P. MERRILL, M.D., Pittsfield.
Bristol North, ARTHUR R. CRANDELL, M.D., Taunton.
Bristol South, EDWIN D. GARDNER, M.D., New Bedford.
Essex North, T. N. STONE, M.D., Haverhill.
Essex South, H. P. BENNETT, M.D., Lynn.
Hampden, LAURENCE D. CHAPIN, M.D., Springfield.
Hampshire, E. E. THOMAS, M.D., Northampton.
Middlesex South, WILLIAM C. HANSON, M.D., Belmont.

ESSEX SOUTH DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY.—

The first regular meeting of the Essex South District Medical Society was held October 2 at the Salem Club, Salem. Dr. Edw. H. Risley, Boston, was the guest of the evening, and he gave a very interesting talk on "The Modern Treatment of Burns, with Especial Reference to the Use of Ambrine and Similar Preparations." Dr. Walter P. Bowers of the State Board of Registration in Medicine, and remembered as a welcome visitor when he was president of the State Society, was also a guest. Dr. Bowers spoke briefly in regard to the need of physicians informing themselves in regard to the pending health insurance legislation.

The Special Commission on Social Insurance will hold a public hearing in Lynn, Oct. 25, at 7.30 p.m., in the Council Chamber at City Hall. "Health Insurance" will be the topic of the hearing. Physicians of the District would do well to attend this hearing. The Censors of the Essex South District will be at the Salem Hospital Thursday, Nov. 1, at 3 p.m. Any of the members knowing desirable candidates should put them in touch with the Secretary at least a week before the meeting.

H. P. BENNETT, *Secretary*.

Obituary.

GEORGE PLUMMER HOWE, M.D.
1878-1917.

THE death of DR. GEORGE P. HOWE, on September 28, 1917, on the field of Mars, carries with it the distinction of being the first graduate of the Harvard Medical School, the first alumnus of the Boston City Hospital, and the first Boston physician to be sacrificed in the devastating war now raging.

In the career of Dr. Howe, there were two predominant motives or root ideas that swayed his conduct of life. One was his desire to be useful to mankind, the other his insatiable longing for adventure. The former held in restraint the latter, thereby leading him to the practice of medicine. The second, when unfettered, irresistibly drove him to fields of exploration.

Almost immediately after he had finished his service as house pupil at the Boston City Hospital, he signed on as surgeon of the Anglo-American Arctic expedition, and in company with the distinguished Arctic explorer Stefansson, spent a year in the Polar regions. When he came home from this voyage, he began the practice of medicine in Lawrence. It was not long after his return, however, before he was again flirting with the siren of travel. This time, she led him on the W. B. Cabot expedition to the interior of Labrador. When he came back from this journey, he became connected with the Peabody Museum of Anthropology, and subsequently led his own expedition to Yucatan for the purpose of investigating Maya culture. When he returned home this time, he married Miss Marion Dudley Endicott, and soon after began to specialize in dermatology in Boston.

Endowed with perfect health, and possessing a physique as tough as old hickory, he was by nature fitted to sail the "Seven Seas." In tastes and thought, he was a citizen of the world. In manner, he was retiring, at times being as silent as an Indian and as deliberate as a lawyer's brief. He had a keen judgment, which made him an able and helpful critic. As an authority on Arctic matters, he stood high. He was an omnivorous reader, with a retentive memory. His conversation was illuminated by a dry humor and his thoughts seemed to come from an inexhaustible reservoir of information. He could talk intelligently and entertainingly on almost any topic, from the blending of Turkish tobacco to an abstract problem of navigation. He could tell an after-dinner story to the merriment of all present. His activities led him to take up as a hobby, at one time wrestling, at another time the invention of an automatic pistol.

His modesty prevented him, much to his own loss, from using the trumpet and drum to herald