

News From The Society (continued from page 1)

Medicine and Director, Ambulatory Health Care Program of the Beth Israel Hospital, Boston. The time - all-day Wednesday, November 13, 1974. The place - the Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston.

Although far in the future, the fourth Symposium in this series has been scheduled for Wednesday, November 19, 1975, at Boston's Copley Plaza Hotel. The subject - The Medicolegal Evaluation of Disability in Psychiatric Disorders. The program Chairman - forensic psychiatrist, Dr. Robert R. Mezer.

A step towards the publication of scholarly articles on the many problems interrelating law, medicine, judiciary and insurance by the AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LAW AND MEDICINE, INC. has been taken.

The Executive Committee has approved Society support of a new periodical to be called "The American Journal of Law & Medicine" with John A. Norris, J.D., M.B.A., as Editor in Chief.

Attorney Norris, a member of the Boston law firm - Peabody, Brown, Rowley & Storey - brings to "The American Journal of Law and Medicine" a long background of scholarly achievement and editorial experience. Mr. Norris graduated with honors from a combined J.D./M.B.A. program at Cornell University where he was a Federal Comprehensive Health Planning Fellow and Editor in Chief of Cornell's *International Law Review*.

Because of financial considerations, a firm publication date has not yet been set, but the target date is the Fall of 1974. Meanwhile, members of the Society who wish to be considered for editorial positions on "The American Journal of Law & Medicine" are urged to communicate their interest to Society headquarters, and manuscripts for this new periodical are invited.

On the drawing board are many programs and projects. Exploration and preliminary work have been started on the following:

An **Institute of Legal and Insurance Medicine** to provide continuing medicolegal education to those health-law-insurance professionals who must acquire skills in several disciplines other than their own and who seek graduate level training.

A **Medicolegal Reference Library** to provide access in one library to the literature, periodicals and books of the varied fields of professional interest required for understanding of medicolegal problems.

A **Career Guidance and Counseling Service** to assist individuals who pursue professional careers in areas involving legal and insurance medicine in selecting courses of graduate training.

A **Medicolegal Seminar in Israel** to be held jointly with the Society for Medicine and Law in Israel in the Spring of 1976.

A **Symposium on Pensions for the Disabled** to provide up-to-date, practical information to social workers, hospital personnel, physicians and attorneys on pensions currently available to disabled persons, the applicable laws, and the procedures for application and appeal. Preliminary work on this program has been undertaken by Mrs. Beatrice Phillips, Chairman of the Society's Section on Social Work and Director of Social Services, Beth Israel Hospital, Boston.

A three day **Conference on Legal Implications of Emergency Medical Care** to be held May 21-23, 1975 in Washington, D.C., under the leadership of noted health-law attorney Neil L. Chayet, author of an authoritative book on this subject.

A **Symposium on Expert Medical Testimony and Interprofessional Relationships Between Physicians and Attorneys.**

A **Symposium on Legal Aspects of Computer Use in Medicine.**

Members are urged to communicate their desire to participate as speakers, panelists, etc. in the Society's programs and any suggestions they may have for future Society activities and educational projects to ASLM headquarters at 454 Brookline Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02215.

Elliot L. Sagall, M.D.
President
THE AMERICAN SOCIETY
OF LAW AND
MEDICINE, INC.



Dr. Cyril Wecht to Give Annual Address

The annual dinner business meeting of the AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LAW & MEDICINE, INC. will be held starting at 6:30 P.M. on Wednesday evening, May 22, 1974, at the Newton Marriott Hotel in Newton, Massachusetts.

The after dinner program features the noted medicolegal expert and educator, Cyril H. Wecht, M.D., J.D., who will speak on "The Many Interfaces of Law and Medicine."

Dr. Wecht is Director, Institute of Forensic Sciences and Research Professor of Law, Duquesne Univ. School of Law; Clinical Associate Professor of Pathology, University of Pittsburgh Schools of Medicine and Dentistry; Director, Pittsburgh Institute of Legal Medicine; Coroner, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania; Past President, American Academy of Forensic Sciences; Past President, American College of Legal Medicine; and Series Editor of LEGAL MEDICINE ANNUAL.

Society Sponsors Medical Malpractice Trial Demonstration

On Saturday, March 30, 1974 the American Society of Law & Medicine, Inc. will co-sponsor a medical malpractice trial demonstration at the Boston University Law School Auditorium, 765 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Mass. with B.U.'s Center for Law and Health Sciences.

The case to be presented involves an unsuccessful vasectomy with resulting questions of contract, negligence, and what constitutes sufficient disclosures concerning the procedure for the purposes of "informed" consent. The plaintiff, defendant doctor, and two expert witnesses for the defense will be questioned on both direct and cross-examination. Opening and closing arguments will also be given. Plaintiff and defense attorneys will be drawn from leading practitioners and will include Barry C. Reed, Paul Sugarman, Enid Starr, Thomas Cargill, Robert Conley, Charles Dunn, Jr. of Boston and Lawrence Smith of New Orleans.

In all, twelve trial lawyers will participate in the demonstration. A running commentary will be provided by Professor Thomas F. Lambert, Jr. of Suffolk University Law School and Editor in Chief, Association of Trial Lawyers of America. Program co-chairmen are George J. Annas and Douglas Danner. Early registration is recommended with the blank for registration printed below.

ORDER FORM:



by Gregory T. Halbert
Washington Correspondent

President Nixon signed the Emergency Medical Systems Act of 1973 into law on November 17, 1973, after vetoing an earlier version. The Act authorizes \$185 million over a three-year period for a Federal Grant-in-Aid program to assist state and local governments to establish and modernize local centers to provide emergency medical care to people in times of natural disaster. The Act did not continue the eight Public Health Service hospitals, as did the earlier version, one of the main reasons for the initial Nixon veto. However, this provision was added a week later to a defense bill that the President signed.

Three other pieces of major medical legislation are under consideration by the Congress, with no action expected soon since Watergate and the energy crisis continue to occupy the spotlight. Senator Russell Long (D-La.) on October 3, 1973 introduced The Catastrophic Health Insurance and Medical Assistance Act of 1973 (S. 2513). The act, written in two parts, provides for the payment of all medical bills after either 60 days of in-patient hospital services, or after a family has incurred \$2,000

in expenses for medical services, both in-patient and outpatient. After these expenses, CHIP would pay 80% of the additional medical bills incurred with the patient responsible for coinsurance of 20%. The high deductible and coinsurance provisions have led many to criticize the bill as "health insurance for the rich", because making payments under the plan could still be "catastrophic for the middle and lower income groups.

Senator Long puts the price tag of his bill at \$9 billion annually. Hearings have not yet been scheduled, but are planned for early this year.

Two other bills of interest to Society members are in the Congressional committee process.

A bill sponsored by Senator Kennedy to establish Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) is now in conference to resolve the differences between the Senate and House passed versions.

Hearings have been completed in the House on a bill to regulate medical devices, (H.R. 9984) introduced by Rep. Paul Rogers (D-Fla.) and is now awaiting final committee mark-up before it can be reported out to the floor.

SYMPOSIUM - MEDICAL MALPRACTICE TRIAL DEMONSTRATION Saturday, March 30, 1974, Auditorium, School of Law, Boston University

Name _____

Title or Degree _____

Organization (if applicable) _____

Address _____ (Zip) _____

Registration fee: (please check)

Member American Society of Law & Medicine, Inc. -- \$12.50

Nonmember -- \$15.00

Student -- \$1.00

Hospital Intern or
Resident -- \$1.00

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