


ENDEAVOR

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OBSERVATIONS ABOUT CLINICAL THERMOMETERS

Why This Useful Instrument is Sometimes Inaccurate. Laboratory at Ottawa Specially Equipped for Testing

The following very interesting and informative article is from the Topographical Survey of Canada branch at Ottawa:—

In winter and spring when la grippe is rampant, many of us make use of clinical thermometers, but few give thought (especially if the mercury reads above the "normal" point) to the nature of the little instrument which is found in practically every household. Probably the thermometer is the most widely used of any pathological instrument, and, although familiarity may breed contempt the accuracy of these small thermometers does actually compare very favourably with that of the

much more costly and large instruments used in scientific laboratories. The clinical thermometer, in common with its larger brethren, is subject to errors which may give rise to fictitious indications. Unless special glass is used for the thin bulb containing the mercury, errors will accumulate for some considerable time after manufacture, due to a slow shrinkage which takes place—extending sometimes for years. Often, too, gas entrapped in the walls of the thermometer stem passes into the fine capillary hole and results in portions of mercury becoming detached from the main column. These pieces may pass unnoticed and incorrect temperature may be indicated.

Then too, clinical thermometers have troubles of their own—due in the main to the constriction which enables the mercury column to retain its reading after removal from the patient's mouth. The making of this constriction calls for great skill on the part of the glass blower. If the thermometer is over constricted the mercury will rise by large jumps, causing errors, and the column will be difficult to shake back. On the other hand the mercury must be trapped effectively, otherwise a fall will take place in the index, when the thermometers is removed for reading—giving a temperature which is too low.

These errors are quite frequently encountered. The National Physical Laboratory in England reported that in one series of nine thousand thermometers twenty-eight per cent. were found unreliable. Good makers have a much smaller percentage of failures. As a comparison with the figures just quoted, one firm in the same year had only twenty-five instruments rejected out of fifteen thousand and most of those were for minor defects.

At the National Physical Laboratory the number of clinical thermo-

meters tested has averaged as high as twenty-five thousand per week throughout the year—this figure giving some idea of the number of clinical thermometers in use. In Canada, tests to clinical thermometers similar to those made at the National Physical Laboratory are undertaken by the Physical Testing Laboratory, Topographical Survey, Department of the Interior, Ottawa. This laboratory has special equipment for the work, and regularly issues certificates of approval for thermometers for the Government Service, hospitals, sanatoria and the Canadian public generally.

HARRY FOXALL, CENTRE HALF BACK OF ENGLISH TEAM

The following is a sketch of Harry Foxall, centre half-back on the visiting English team here July 7th:—

If it should so happen, as it probably will, that Headless needs a rest, Harry Foxall is the man for any task where strength and reach may be required as he is 6 ft. 1 in. and 168 lbs. During March 1917 Foxall, who was then playing for Harborne Lynwood, was given a trial in wartime football by Birmingham against Notts County but although he acquitted himself quite creditably his services were not retained. Engaging himself to Merthyr Town for the season 1922-23 he remained with this Welsh team until the middle of February 1924 when he was seen in the ranks of Portsmouth against Norwich City and has never since been left out of the team because of loss of form. This is saying a great deal. Although such a big fellow his play is perfectly legitimate and has developed on Scottish lines since he went to Portsmouth.

The regular meeting of the Town Council is scheduled to be held this (Thursday) evening.

CAPT. COLE ON EXECUTIVE OF CANADIAN LEGION

Brigadier-General J. A. Gunn Elected President of Ontario Section of Soldier's Organization Last Week.

Brigadier-General J. A. Gunn, of Toronto, was elected president of the Ontario section of the Canadian Legion at the session in London, Ont., last week. Capt. Geo. E. Cole, South Porcupine, was voted into office as a member of the executive. The first vice-president is Major Dr. W. D. Sharpe, of Brampton; the chairman, W. S. Dodds, of the Toronto branch of the Amputations' Association, and the vice-chairman, Leo Cunningham, of St. Catharines.

The presidency was offered to Col. Keiller MacKay, of Toronto, who has acted as chairman of the recent convention. He, however, stated that he was not in a position physically to accept the office.

Previous to the election of officers the question of overseas service as a requirement for all office-holders arose as a suggestion from members of the Amputations' Association. This association, though not in affiliation with the Legion, had delegates at the convention, who were given the privileges of debate, though they did not vote.

R. Myers, of Toronto, thought that no member should be allowed to hold office unless he had seen active service overseas. This met with some opposition from several members. It clashed with the membership clauses in the Legion constitution, which state that "officers and men who have completed their terms of engagement in any of His Majesty's regular forces or in any of the permanent forces of the Dominion, including the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, are eligible," and also that "all officers and men who have served six years satisfactorily in any of the auxiliary forces."

Lieut. Col. MacKay in a ruling handed down after some argument, stated that the tentative constitution of the legion must stand for this election. "That must be my ruling on this matter," he said "although personally, I would like to see men in office who had seen overseas service."

R. H. MacDonald opposed the idea on the ground that several men who had been ordered on duty in Canada and were not able to get overseas would be barred from holding office in spite of the fact that they were in many cases the men who were worthwhile. A. J. Cooper, of Walkerville, took the same attitude and wanted the legion constitution rigidly adhered to. He said he had been prevented by medical reasons from getting across. He thought that he should not for that reason be prevented from holding office.

R. Myers, mover of the resolution, declared that only by placing in office overseas men could the enthusiasm of other ex-service men, now unattached, be aroused for the legion. Finally his amended resolution was passed as a recommendation to the provincial executive for consideration. It read, "that no members of the legion shall hold office unless he has seen service overseas in any of His Majesty's forces, in any wars, and has an honourable discharge."

The Provincial executive was elected as follows:—Western Division, Col. Ibbotson Leonard, D.S.O., of London, H. F. Moses, of Mitchell and E. A. Hobson, of Kitchener. Central Division 2—R. H. MacDonald, of Finches Corners; H. Bray, of Toronto; W. W. Parry, of Toronto; Controller Burton, of Hamilton, and Col. A. T. Hunter, of Toronto. Eastern Division 3—Col. Parkinson, of Ottawa, and Chas. Hicks, of Kingston. Northern Division 4—Capt. Cole, of South Porcupine, and L. H. Saunders of North Bay.

The honorary president is the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, Henry Cocksbutt, and the honorary treasurer, Col. O. B. Copper of Hamilton. There are five presidents for the province, whose selection will be left to the executive.

A warning to the public against fraudulent canvassers for funds was issued by the convention. A resolution was passed which makes it necessary for all authorized persons collecting funds for the Legion to have the written authority of the Dominion secretary, on which will also be stated the division and district in which the

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collection is to be made. "All persons," says the resolution, "collecting money illegally will be prosecuted by the Legion."

Telegrams in reply to messages of good will from the Legion at its formation two days ago were received from Lord Byng of Vimy, His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, and the Prime Minister.

NORTH BAY MAN ALMOST "SQUARES THE CIRCLE."

The attainment of a form of perpetual motion, the discovery of the elixir of life, the transmutation of baser metals into gold and the squaring of the circle—these are the problems that for centuries have engaged the attention of scientists. To-day, there is so much "perpetual motion" that the scientific gentlemen have apparently lost interest. There appears to be an equal lack of finding any elixir of life. The automobiles are killing off so many, irrespective of age, that apart from a little monkey gland business, the scientists seem to have come to the conclusion that it matters little whether you are young or old. With so much gold in Porcupine, Kirkland Lake, Rouyn, Red Lake and other parts of the North Land, the scientists evidently believe that transmutation is unnecessary. So there remains only the "squaring of the circle," as an active scientific pursuit.

Now, a North Bay man claims to have come within one ten-thousandths of an inch of squaring the circle. The Advance would be quite willing to let it go at that, so would most folk. The North Bay man, however, says he is going to keep at it and he believes he can get it perfect yet. When the North Bay man succeeds, The Advance would like to see him devote his holidays to a plan of assuring that the Mattagami river will be kept open for traffic. It will not be necessary to figure near as closely as in squaring the circle, but it will prove a tough job just the same. The Advance does not know any particular advantage that will accrue from the absolute squaring of the circle. The people have been able to get along fairly well so far without it. But the settlers can not get along at all unless the river is kept open. Probably, it would be just as well to leave the circle out only one ten-thousandth of an inch and try at once squaring away the river business. In the meantime, it may interest those of a scientific mind to read what The North Bay Nugget has to say about the attempt to square the circle. The Nugget says:—

"Squaring the circle, that problem for which mathematicians have been seeking a solution ever since the days of Euclid is within one ten-thousandth of an inch of being solved. J. V. Henry, a local man, 66 McIntyre St., east, yesterday showed The Nugget a solution for the problem that it had taken him almost three months of constant effort to complete. Working on the ratio of thirteen to eight and with the aid of compasses, rules and squares, the first step in his solution was to find a line, which, when squared, would be equal to the area of a circle of a seven inch diameter. The solution is rather an intricate one, involving arithmetic, elementary geometry, algebra and a little bit of trigonometry. On the circle of seven inches in diameter the solution is one ten-thousandth of an inch from being correct. The proof has been submitted to Principal Wallace of the Collegiate Institute but he has not yet succeeded in checking it all the way through."

The Cobalt G.W.V.A. and the baseball club of the silver town are planning a celebration of July 1st at Cobalt.

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