

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO SUBMIT THEIR OBSERVATIONS
OF THE WORK DONE IN ST. MARK'S SANITARIUM TO THE
MEN'S CLUB OF ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH.

In the fall of 1919 Dr. Wm. F. Koch, M.A., B.A., Ph.D., M.D., Prof. of Physiology at the Detroit College of Medicine, stirred the medical profession by the announcement in the Detroit Medical Journal, that he had discovered a Cure for Cancer, and that he had already clinically cured a number of inoperable cases.

Dr. Koch stated at that time, that this was the result of nine years of labor and study which began in the chemical laboratory of the University of Michigan. While professor there he had made a special study of the parathyroid gland—a contribution to medical science which at first met with much ridicule and opposition by the profession, but which today is considered a tremendous contribution and step forward. Credit for its achievement must be given, not to his fellows in the Wayne County Medical Society, but to the University of Glasgow, Scotland. This study had directed Koch's attention to the study of a Cure for Cancer.

Great as had been the stir and great as had been the ridicule by reputable physicians, jealous of their own professional reputations—at the announcement of his work and studies of the parathyroid gland—greater was the stir and greater was the ridicule at the announcement of his Cure for Cancer. It was not due to that Koch had no standing and that he perhaps had tried to quack something into existence which might well be questioned because of his lack of ability or knowledge. From press reports of that day we cull the following:

DR. J. H. CARSTENS stated: "The man who discovers a Cancer Cure will be the greatest man in the world. . . . He has apparently effected some wonderful cures."

DR. ALEXANDER BLAINE is quoted as saying: "Dr. Koch is the most brilliant physiological chemist of the country. Several patients he treated for me are working hard and enjoying life a year after they should have been dead. What he has already done is a boon to humanity and a great step forward in physiological chemistry."

DR. WALTER HACKET (visiting gynecologist and obstetrician, Women's Hospital), said: "There is no question of Dr. Koch's sincerity and ability." After stating that he had cured a case for him, he adds: "I never have seen anything so remarkable as this."

DR. C. HOLLISTER JUDD, President of the Women's Board of the Women's Hospital, declared: "When we stop to consider that after the age of 40 one woman in every seven and one man in every twelve dies of cancer, the importance of the work Koch is doing cannot be over-rated. The cases given him have been the hopeless ones, where the surgeon saw the uselessness or impossibility of further operation, and his treatment has shown remarkable results. Everything should be done to encourage him in his work."

Up to this time then, it did show very clearly that Koch was not the quack or fake with a gyp cancer cure which, since an unfair criticism by the Detroit Medical Society has permitted to rest on him, yes, put on him without permitting a defense. Time has put us in a position to see clearly what Dr. Koch was to society at large, and especially also what reputation he had with the profession. The profession had all reason to be proud of the man who then stood out as an honored, reputable chemist and physician, who was on the right track. There was something that promised well, because his work had shown results—the failures of all other means employed to cure cancer the world well know which had looked into it. Dr. Koch had also frankly and openly published the results in the medical journals. Cases cured had there been reported and are alive today, six years after. Dr. Koch was also known to all—his record was known to all—he had no secret to keep concerning his person, no fees to receive, nothing but honor or dishonor, according as he was right or wrong. Everything was in his favor except the one damning fact that he was not one of the powers that be; nor was he willing to submit himself to exploitation. Koch, however, did not, in his open and frank nature, understand the powers that be. He did not know that the way of the transgressor, on the rights and established rules of the profession, is an exceeding hard one. Had he known this he would never have consented to that farcical investigation in Kiefer Hospital in 1919. Friends had urged him not to enter such an investigation, but Koch replied: "I have the cures that will convince even my antagonists."

In the fall of 1923, when he again sought to convince his fellows, his friend Dr. Dewey, who was present, reflected the mind of such who desire to suppress, when he wrote: "For a studied intent to falsify, a premeditated determination to condemn everything and an unscientific, un-American assumption to be judge, jury and prosecuting witness, the report of this so-called committee outstrips in bias, unfairness and mendacity anything that has ever been my lot to observe in a medical practice of 44 years. The frankness with which you presented the cases, giving the committee all the details and referring them to original records and to the family physicians, showed your honest desire to have an honest investigation of your methods."

Had Koch known this in 1919 he would not have submitted to the investigation. His desire to urge this treatment on the profession as another step forward, however, led him honestly to yield, when requested by Mayor James Couzens, who placed Detroit's municipal facilities at the disposal of an investigation in Kiefer Hospital. After some hesitancy, the matter was placed for superintendency into the hands of a committee made up of members of the Wayne County Medical Society. Truly Koch had all reason to be glad that at last with the city back of him, the mayor's interest also so great that he promised to give personal attention if results were shown, that at last his efforts would be encouraged and furthered. It was an investigation by the city in a matter of the utmost importance to the health of the city. Was not Cancer the modern scourge? What city would not gladly have the honor of bringing out the greatest discovery of the modern times? Yes, and what city would not do what Detroit did, place all of its municipal facilities at the disposal of the Medical Society for an investigation of a Cancer Cure? Detroit did well in doing that, but Detroit did not know the powers that be. The investigation was placed into the hands of a committee selected by the Wayne County Medical Society. It appears that two committees were appointed to superintend this investigation.

Committee No. 1—To consist of five men who were to serve as judges for this investigation in Kiefer Hospital.

Committee No. 2 was to investigate the private cases already under treatment of Dr. Koch.

It was urged that a number of patients be treated and sufficient time be given for observation. The investigation, instead of lasting about one year, came to a close in about three weeks. Seven cases of hopeless inoperable Cancer were selected and treated. Committee 1, consisting of five members who had superintended the investigation in

Kiefer Hospital, reported back to its society that no apparent curative results were witnessed. Only three members of the committee ever saw the patients, yet all signed the condemnatory report.

Committee 2, which was to investigate the private cases of Dr. Koch, made no investigation and yet reports no results. This committee, in part, also declared Dr. Koch's records were incomplete and that he had submitted no proof that his injections have any particular merit, so the committee concluded that the study is entirely experimental and improperly supervised.

This investigation, then, resulted in a report which said, "We can find no results." Koch's reward was a complete ostracism at the hands of the medical profession. The chemist and searcher at once was stamped a quack and fake.

The entire report of the Wayne County Committee was next printed in the Journal of the American Medical Association, and from that date Koch was listed with the Charlatan practitioners, exploiters, quacks, fakes, frauds and what not.

This report, to this day, is the basis on which every medical opinion rests. Each inquirer after the Koch treatment is met with the statement that a committee of the Wayne County Medical Society has condemned the treatment. As late as February, 1925, in Vol. 15, No. 1 of Harper Hospital Bulletin, in which comment is made on the gathering of doctors in St. Mark's Sanitarium for the purpose of comparing statistics as reported in the Free Press, we read: "This Koch Cancer Cure has been discredited by a committee of the Wayne County Medical Society." Harper Hospital Bulletin next engages in much wild talk, which time might have been better employed in looking up the cases which Harper Hospital could not help but which were helped by Koch.

In short, Koch stands condemned by the profession and the profession used the city to condemn, when Detroit placed its hospital at its disposal.

Dr. Koch had been raised in St. Mark's Church. It was quite natural that the pastor should take notice of such a serious charge against a man who, up to this time, had been enjoying the best of reputation. Furthermore, Pastor Ruesskamp took notice of the fact that a quack was attending his church. If he was a quack he actually was guilty of a serious crime, a crime equal to murder, yes, robbery also. Accordingly Pastor Ruesskamp took interest in the matter and soon after some observation, came to the conclusion that the whole procedure needed careful investigation. Pastor Ruesskamp had seen some merit in the treatment and resolved to make independent investigation. He soon saw that there were misconceptions, misunderstandings and crooked paths, and that in such an important matter as a Cancer Cure nothing should be left undone to save the treatment for the good of the thousands of poor sufferers now languishing hopelessly on their beds of pain. He also saw, gradually, how futile it would be to seek a correction of the report at that time. He sought to enlist the sympathy of doctors and hospitals but met with discouragement upon discouragement. He offered the Cure to existing hospitals but all in vain. After attempt upon attempt met with failure, he resolved to encourage Doctor Koch to develop and continue the work in a sanitarium under the auspices of the church. St. Mark's people, out of respect for their pastor, consented to the use of the name, believing that the pastor would not foster anything which had no merits. This gave birth to the sanitarium. If surgery

cannot help, if radium cannot help, why does the profession obstruct this treatment? Pastor Ruesskamp asserts he had observed the work of the Cancer Committee, who annually drove the patients to the surgeon for operations, of which he knew they cannot cure. As pastor, he had often stood and beheld the heartaches and tears of the sufferers of Cancer. But even Pastor Ruesskamp did not know that the profession was so hard to approach. Of the struggle to get a standing we will, in future days, report some more. In short, it took time. St. Mark's Sanitarium, however, did permit the further observation and development of the work of Dr. Koch.

After three years of observation and close examination, in which time we have been able to group conclusive evidence about this work, we are able to make a report. Sufficient time has also elapsed to form a correct opinion of the whole work. Accordingly we report to you, that

Committee No. 1 of the Wayne County Medical Society *did not give* a correct report of the investigation conducted in Kiefer Hospital. This committee reported: "*No Results.*" We report: That two patients treated in that investigation are alive and well today, and we have the faint suspicion that others treated there are also alive. At least, they were seen by patients of the investigation even two years after, *alive and well*. Be that as it will, since we have no information of their whereabouts it would be exceedingly pleasant to see the records of the Wayne County Society to ascertain their residence.

Committee No. 2 *made no investigation* of the private work done by Dr. Koch. It failed to observe. What it failed to do we did. Together with us are others who have also observed; their result of observation and ours is herewith submitted to you.

Dr. Frederick Dugdale, 376 Boylston St., Boston, Mass., President of the Board of Trustees of the American Association for Physical Medical Research, and also of the Allied Medical Association, says:

"There is absolutely no question in my mind that you have the goods, can deliver them and are going to give those old conservative New Englanders a jolt which will make them think that this old world has actually come to an end so far as they are concerned." February 10, 1925.

The Fairbury Hospital, through its Surgical Director, Dr. Albert Lynch, reports on its investigation February, 1924: "You have thrown a monkey-wrench in my machinery! If I had not seen the results myself I could scarcely believe them."

Dr. Everett Field, Director of the Radium Institute of New York before he himself cured cases, had by observation come to make the following statement:

"One can appreciate my satisfaction when I affirm that in one day I visited thirty-four such patients who had remained entirely well after treatment for a period of six months to four years. In about one-third of the cases true pathological reports substantiated the diagnosis. In all others the hospital and independent medical records justified a true diagnosis. The exhibit without doubt formed the most remarkable experience of my medical career. No person, even of prejudiced mind, could fail to be convinced of the unusual merit of such a treatment.

"Personally I made it my duty to talk to a number of Detroit physicians with the hope of ameliorating the antagonisms expressed on both sides. Further effort was soon discouraged when I found that even the president of the society who had experienced in his practice a cure in a case that he had passed up to die, still held that the hard and fast rules of medical ethics should hold no exception. For my own part I decided that the life of my patients must be above such a fanatical ethical status and I proceeded to investigate the treatment more critically."

Since then Dr. Field has reported so many cures, that the Wayne County Medical Society may at any time invite him to demonstrate the cures he reports. He declares: "Koch has the Cure for Cancer."

Dr. Carrol Oblen, of New Orleans, La., Professor of Surgery at the Tulane University, pioneer and author in local anaesthesia, organizer of the American College of Surgeons, reputed to be the greatest surgeon of the South, December 29, 1924, declared, "I am absolutely convinced that Dr. Wm. F. Koch, of Detroit, Mich., has a Cure for Cancer. I have carefully investigated it."

Dr. Dill, of Logansport, says: "I am curing about 80 per cent of my cancer patients with your treatment."

We are able to furnish the same type of reports made by other honest, clear headed and eminent practitioners from various parts of the country. The Harper Hospital Bulletin, Vol. 5 No. 1, takes it for granted, that all these men are exploiters and urges upon its readers that all the cures reported are "supposed cases." We desire to state that it would be well for Harper Hospital to examine its own records of Cancer Cases turned away to die, which were helped by Koch. If it cannot find such, we stand ready to assist them in finding them. It was not hard for the Committee of the Lutheran Hospital of St. Louis to find them in the records of Harper Hospital. This Committee having looked through the records of Harper Hospital declares through its chairman the result of its observations:

Dr. Theo Lange said, "Ever since my return I have been so overwhelmed with enthusiasm that I cannot refrain from speaking and proclaiming your wonderful Cure to everybody I come in contact with. You certainly are a Godsend and I wish you continued success in spite of all humiliation. They will eventually crawl on their knees to get your support."

Dr. O. R. Mitchell, for some years President of the Board of Trustees of the American Medical Association, writes from Lincoln, November 12, 1924, of something he observed at Fairbury in the work of Dr. Lynch.

Have been watching his (Dr. Lynch's) cases at Fairbury, and am convinced that whatever the substance is it is efficient. I had the pleasure of reading your article in the October number of "Cancer" and it is certainly the most intelligent and enlightening discussion of the subject I have ever read. For years I have been convinced of the utter uselessness of surgery in true cancer cases, and have made myself disliked somewhat by my opposition to surgeons going about the country lecturing upon the subject of which they themselves know nothing. I hope that a little more time will prove that your work is really an epoch making work and that you will ultimately secure the full credit and profit to which your service entitles you.

Yours sincerely,

A. R. MITCHELL.

The Abendschule, a family journal published in St. Louis, perhaps one of the most conservative journals published, says, commenting on the work observed by them in the using:

"It may be of some interest to know that the Koch treatment for Cancer has been tried in the Lutheran Hospital of St. Louis. In all cases in which the disease had not advanced too far or the patient was not too exhausted it showed astounding results."

Mr. C. C. Craemer, Secretary of the Lutheran Laymen's League, after carefully observing Koch's work declares: "I have seen plenty of cases where Koch has worked a cure absolutely approaching the miraculous. I am willing to vouch with my head for the actual truth of every statement and will uphold them even against the entire medical profession of the United States."

We could furnish many more observers, but the ones presented to you suffice. All agree in: "That Koch has cured many cases in his private practice" and that the Committee appointed by the Wayne County Medical Society to investigate this, failed utterly in its duty. Thus the money of the citizens was spent in vain while they trusted this Committee. Against their delinquency, we have placed the observations of reputable practitioners, men and citizens. Dr. Field in commenting on the sad situation suggests "It is small wonder then, that Dr. Koch should express himself with unbridled terms against any medical organization that would treat his work with such a spirit of unreserved venom."

Your Committee believes that it has furnished you with sufficient evidence from observers to compel the admission that we are dealing with something of the utmost importance to the taxpayers whose money was used to finance an investigation which resulted in nothing when in fact it should have resulted in something. The Wayne County Committee reported Koch had no results. We place against Committee No. 1 the cured patients who were in that farcical investigation and who are alive today, plus those reported in the journals, which they also overlooked. We place against Committee No. 2 the prominent men who made observations with us and who declare with one mouth: "*Koch has a Cure*"!

We believe, whatever the difference may be which exists among those who sat in Convention on this work of Dr. Koch, no difference dare exist as to the effectiveness of the results of the investigation conducted by the city. The city must know that the Committee should have discovered this Cure. Its Failure has been the cause of many being deprived of that Cure. The city's trust was abused and the city has the duty to exonerate the man whom it condemned when it was a party to the investigation superintended by the Committee which was a total failure. This Committee has robbed a good citizen of his honor, deprived itself of honor, and obstructed progress in the work which this nation needs in its deadly combat with the white man's plague.

St. Mark's Committee therefore recommends to you, the members of the Club:

(1) That you discuss ways and means to bring this to the attention of the proper authorities, so a correction may be made and this be handed to the world, as another contribution by one of Michigan's fairest sons, which stands unequalled in history.

(2) That you appoint a committee to bring this to the attention of the Mayor of the City of Detroit and the Common Council demanding a correction of the report to which the city was made a party when condemning it.

(3) All observers mentioned in this report are willing at any stated moment to come to Detroit and help correct the report made by the Committee of the Wayne County Medical Society.

Respectfully submitted,

REV. C. H. RUESSKAMP.