

WM. F. KOCH, Ph. D., M. D.



William Frederick Koch was born in Detroit, April 6, 1885. He received his early education in the schools of Detroit and his collegiate education at the University of Michigan from which he received the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1909, the degree of Master of

Arts in 1910 and the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in 1917. He taught four years in the University of Michigan, two years (1910-1912) as Assistant in Physiology, and two years (1912-1914) as Instructor in Histology and Embryology.

In 1914 he was made Professor of Physiology of the Detroit College of Medicine, a position which he held for 5 years. He received the degree of Doctor of Medicine from the Detroit College of Medicine and Surgery in 1918 and was licensed to practice medicine in the state of Michigan the same year. He held the position of Pathologist at the Woman's Hospital, Detroit, for the years 1917-1919 and has since been Consulting Pathologist to this hospital.

But the interest of the medical profession in Dr. Koch centers about this work as a research student. While at Ann Arbor he early directed his attention to the experimental study of the function of the parathyroid glands. The results of his researches were published in contributions to the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, 1912 and 1913, to the *Journal of Laboratory and Clinical Medicine*, 1916, and to the *Journal of Medicine and Surgery* in 1917. This early work was favorably commented on in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* and was cited by Dr. Lewellyn F. Barker of John Hopkins. Dr. Koch's findings were later confirmed by Dr. Paton of the University of Glasgow. He demonstrated in these early researches that the parathyroid glands have a protective function against the guanidin poisons.

Dr. Koch is an indefatigable worker. No sacrifice of sleep, food or pleasure was ever too much for him to make in order to stay on the job of watching the behavior of his parathyroid-ectomized dogs or of the chemicals in his retorts. Even at the University of Michigan he had many discouragements to encounter, many obstacles to overcome. One of his darkest days was when on going to his laboratory his dogs were missing and on inquiry was told that they had been killed as there was no fund to purchase food for them. Oh, how gladly he would have sacrificed anything to have fed those dogs, if only he had been warned of what was going to happen.

After going to Detroit, he continued his researches, but now directed his attention primarily to the study of cancer, a subject in which his interest had been quickened by the death of his father after much

suffering from cancer of the stomach. Applying the results of his experiences in the study of the parathyroid glands, he undertook a study of the chemistry of the toxins present in persons afflicted with cancer. As a student of bacteriology and histology he had found what he thought was the germ of cancer, which he now believes was the motile bacillus stage of the Glover parasite. His chemical studies gave him a new concept of antitoxins, namely, that they are converted toxins. His final conclusions were that cancer is a germ disease, that the cancer tumor is an effort on the part of Nature to produce a protecting gland whose function is the conversion of toxins into antitoxins, and his final accomplishment was the production of a synthetic antitoxin which when injected into the cancer sufferer causes the conversion of the toxins into antitoxins and as a consequence of the digestion and absorption of the cancer tumor, the reconstruction of damaged parts and the relief of all toxic symptoms. In short he had been able to work out on the observed facts that he finds are incontrovertible, and the establishment of the immunity process, to offer to the medical profession a substance which was not only a cure for cancer but a protective against cancer and an immunizing agent against the recurrence of cancer.

Preliminary reports of his findings were published in the *Detroit Medical Journal*, July, 1919, and in the *New York Medical Record*, October 30, 1920. Since then the way of the searcher for truth and the benefactor of humanity have been beset with many difficulties. He, like Holmes, Simmelweis, Lister and other contributors to scientific therapy, has been denounced by his former associates, by dominant members of the medical profession and by medical bodies and their official journals. He has suffered the loss of his professorship and the loss of his membership in the local medical society and, par consequence, in the American Medical Association.

But Dr. Koch is the type of man who having observed facts that he finds are incontrovertible, does not give up in discouragement. Even though he has not been able to get a medical committee to conduct a proper examination into the clinical value of his treatment for cancer (such an examination would require at least six months of observation of cases) he has kept doggedly at the research, has made important changes in the original formula of his synthetic antitoxin, has made many valuable clinical observations and is really gradually attracting the attention of worth while men to his work.

Through the *Journal of the American Association for Medico-Physical Research* the work of Dr. Koch has within the last few months been brought to the attention of 15,000 to 20,000 physicians, many of whom are watching his work with interest, particularly since the studies of other men have brought forth what seems to be conclusive evidence of the parasitic origin of cancer—the isolation, culturing, subculturing of the germ and the tracing of its life history.

His medical critics have said that it was preposterous that a young man should be able to announce a cure for cancer within a year after receiving his M. D. These critics forget that Koch is primarily a physiologist, a chemist, a research worker, and not a practitioner of medicine, that he spent more than 10 years in research work to reach his conclusions and that five years more of such research now backed up by clinical practice fortifies him in his conclusions. They forget that some of the greatest contributions to medical science were men who did not even have the M. D., to say nothing of having practiced medicine, e. g. Pasteur and Morton.

Dr. Koch is married and has four small children. His home is in Ann Arbor. His Cancer Clinic and his laboratories are in Detroit. He is a lover of Nature, especially of the expanses of blue water. He has recently purchased a tract of several acres of land having a 500 foot frontage on Lake Huron a few miles above Port Huron. This is an ideal site for a rest haven for cancer sufferers, for a home where those little children can have the freedom of the fields, of forest, of the water of the Great Lake, can breathe an atmosphere flooded with sunshine and not polluted with the dust of factories. Yet, we doubt if Dr. Koch will spend much time on the shores of this beautiful lake for the laboratories in Detroit have a strong pull on him. Dr. Dewey, formerly dean of the Hoemeopathic Department of the Medical School of the University of Ann Arbor says that it was often necessary to drag Koch out of the laboratory and send him home to eat and sleep.

To discover a truth, to relieve a cancer sufferer, to be a benefactor of humanity is greater compensation to Dr. Koch for any sacrifice or service that he may make than is the possession of silver or gold. Over one-half of the patients which he has cared for have been treated without price. They are very grateful. He once wrote a doctor in words like these: "It seems so good to find some one who has the interests of the poor at heart—I take more pleasure out of the restoring of a poor cancer sufferer to health so that she can go back to the wash tub and earn a living for herself and little children than I do in curing a man of means." Yet, it is fortunate that some are able to compensate him for services, else the research work could not go on, else the educational work of carrying the message of hope to patients through their doctors could not go on. Occasionally a wealthy patient does a very handsome thing for Dr. Koch. He drives a Packard eight which is the gift of gratitude from a man whose wife was cured of cancer. This man did more than perhaps he knew in making this gift, for as one woman remarked: "It was a thoughtful gift, for by giving a car this man is saving Dr. Koch's time and energy for more and better work."

Dr. Koch is a very modest man. When asked for items about his life and work, he replied with a simple table of 15 lines, each one giving a bare fact of a date of some mile stone in his education, in his experience as a teacher, or of the publication

of a scientific paper. Nothing more. The Association feels differently. It wants the readers of the Journal to see through his little story, the real man, an honored member of the Association, which it believes will have a permanent place in the history of medicine. Fifty members of the Association have enrolled to aid him in the practical observation of clinical results secured in the treatment of cancer by his syntehtic antitoxin.

W. WALLACE FRITZ



THAT THE NEW YEAR

MAY BRING

EACH OF ITS READERS

GREATER OPPORTUNITIES

FOR SERVICE

IS THE SINCERE WISH

OF THE JOURNAL.



The Journal takes pleasure in directing the attention of its readers to the pages of this issue (85-87) devoted to review-abstracts of some very recent articles by American, Canadian and English research workers of the parasitic origin of cancer and the results that have been obtained by the use of serums and chemicals in the treatment of cancer. These pages are well worth reading and pondering over. They will inspire you with the feeling that the day is at hand when cancer shall cease to be a scourge to humanity, that there is a great service for each and everyone to perform in assisting in the dissemination of information concerning the facts observed by these scientists. Don't fail to study these review-abstracts.