would seem worthy of careful consideration and support by all who would have the medical profession take as strong a position as possible before the public. The public has a real respect for strong, legitimate organization. It is apt in this day and generation to think lightly of institutions, organizations and businesses that are not well organized.

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## POPE'S AND ROANTREE'S ARTICLES IN THIS ISSUE

*The Work of Saxton Pope in Africa.*—It is a busy world, this in which we live. With its ever present pressure of work before us on the today and on the morrow, it seems difficult to find time to contemplate some of the activities of yesterday. Some of the work of a yesterday is brought to our attention by an article in this issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE; work which was done by a former member and officer of the California Medical Association, Saxton T. Pope, whom death took from our midst two years ago. This research, to which publicity is only now given, brings to mind Saxton Pope's unusual capacity for work, his diversity of interest in scientific matters, as well as his interesting personality.

It was an experience in itself, as we look back upon it, to see Saxton Pope, a physician, becoming especially interested in Indian lore through professional contact and observation of an aged member of one of California's early Indian groups. And from that experience, taking up the special study of bows and arrows, and ending with his determination to engage in the hunt for game with these implements, because of the increased hazards and sportsmanship elements connected, under such conditions, with a chase of the wild.

When Saxton Pope was among us, as a busy fellow practitioner and as secretary of this Association and as editor of its journal, his personality took on additional charm when it became known that he had engaged in the hunt with bow and arrow, first of small game, and then later of wild cats and bears, in the great open spaces.

These unusual achievements would have been ample for most men. But not so for Saxton Pope. For him the quest of attainment demanded more. It was therefore a surprise, though not incredible, to learn that, with a number of kindred spirits, he intended to go to Africa on a bow and arrow hunt for lions. The record of that trip has been put in page form, and needs no mention here.*

What concerns us now, is that it seems very fitting that attention should be called to some scientific work which he did in Africa in connection with the animals killed by him. That work or line of scientific investigation is unfolded in the article in this issue by Dr. S. H. Mentzer, in which the drawings and observations which were made by Doctor Pope on the biliary tracts of animals killed in the African expedition are now placed in permanent record in this journal, which he once edited. As the many colleagues who knew Saxton Pope peruse this article, and note the illustrations and observations from his pen, their hearts will glow with renewed pride at having known him. In this, one of his last works, Saxton Pope did honor to the medical profession of California, and this somewhat tardy publication of some of his observations will only add to the interest which it must have to many members of the California Medical Association.

* The Adventurous Bowman, by Saxton Pope. Published by the George P. Putnam Company, New York.

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*An Article by an Elko, Nevada, Colleague.*—CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE is the accredited publication representative of the medical associations of the states of California, Nevada, and Utah. For the benefit of those who are not acquainted with the fact, it is proper to state that Elko is a small town of some three thousand population.

An article in this issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, on "Torsion of the Spermatic Cord," is from the pen of Dr. R. P. Roantree, a colleague who resides in this small Nevada town.

Special mention is made of this particular article not only because of its worth in exemplifying alertness in clinical observation and excellent portrayal in word picture of the subject presented, but to bring out for special emphasis that a large urban center is not the only and absolutely necessary background for scientific observation in medical problems.

The excellent article by Roantree of Elko should recall to us that the open, well informed and questioning mind and eye, will see cases of value and interest no matter how seemingly small in population numbers the community in which one practices may be. Roantree's work reminds us of the need of shaking off somewhat the shackles of routine practice, so that our daily professional labors may be fraught not only with the credit of good results to our patients, but with medical observations which can be of value to ourselves and to our fellows.

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## FEDERAL TAX ON EARNED INCOMES OF PHYSICIANS

In the Medico-Legal column of the Miscellany Department of this issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE is printed a form of petition to Congress, in which a plea is made for a reduction of the federal tax on earned incomes. This petition presents the argument on behalf of physicians, giving the reasons why this particular class of citizens feels that it should be exempt from certain of the income tax provisions which now obtain. The effort which is now being made throughout the United States to have a reduction of earned incomes of all classes is one that merits careful consideration by our federal lawmakers.

Every county medical association and every hospital staff and organization should pass resolu-

tions somewhat of the form above referred to. The full copy should be sent not only to the United States Congress direct, but might well be sent to the United States senators and various representatives from California. The full list of these federal senators and congressmen is also given in the Medico-Legal column, with directions on how to address communications to be sent to these officials.

If the more than four thousand members of the California Medical Association would send to California senators and congressmen, letters supporting the plan to reduce the federal tax on earned incomes, then these United States senators and congressmen would be apt to be far more aggressive in their efforts to bring about such reduction than would otherwise be the case. The equity of the proposition must be self-evident. The present campaign for a reduction is being made under broad auspices, and no doubt will result in a real effort to bring about a better adjustment in these tax matters. Every physician in California who pays federal income taxes under present conditions, is in one sense submitted to a hardship out of proportion to that borne by other citizens for whom special exemptions are made on capital income. It is hoped that county medical societies, hospital staffs, and members of the medical profession will give this present movement to bring about a readjustment of federal income taxes in relation to earned incomes most hearty support. Your letters will be of value in educating your lawmakers and representatives at Washington concerning the viewpoint of the medical profession of California. And what has been here written concerning California applies with equal force to our sister states of Nevada and Utah, whose state medical associations are represented in this journal.

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Mastitis-Raw Milk Combination Causes Another Epidemic.—*Health News* of last week recorded an epidemic of septic sore throat as having been traced to raw milk from a herd in which there was a cow with an infected udder, and mentioned one in Savannah, Wayne County, as under investigation. Following is a report of the Savannah outbreak.

In the week of March 10 approximately seventy-five cases were discovered in the village, which has a population of about 600. Most of the cases developed between the 10th and the 13th. All those investigated had used Grade A raw milk from one dairy and no cases were discovered among persons who had not used this milk. In one family a child who had the milk at school was ill, but no cases occurred among other members of his family who had used other milk. In another family two adults who had used the milk on cereal were ill, while two children who had used no milk escaped. The existence of cases of sore throat on the farm previous to the beginning of the outbreak was denied.

Investigation revealed that a cow in the herd supplying the milk received an udder injury about March 2. A veterinarian who examined the udder on the 6th reports that he found no evidence of inflammation at that time. The existence of mastitis was discovered on the 13th, but apparently the milk was not excluded until after that date.

When the epidemic was reported to the department arrangements were made to have Dr. R. S. Breed, department consultant, visit the dairy with the local health officer, veterinarian and district state health officer, to advise concerning exclusion of milk from the apparently unaffected cows. The milk was temporarily excluded and samples for bacterial examination were taken from all cows in the herd. Examinations made in the state laboratory indicated that hemolytic streptococci were present in the milk from the infected cow and in throat cultures from patients.

These epidemics, following closely upon that at Lee, Massachusetts, and the outbreak of illness among school children at Cornwall, outlined in *Health News* of December 24, 1928 and the Wayland epidemic reported last week, all traced to raw milk from herds in which there were cases of mastitis, furnish striking evidence in support of the department's position (1) that acute mastitis constitutes a serious menace to the health and safety of consumers of raw milk; (2) that under present conditions the farmer cannot be depended upon to discover the condition until it is well developed, or to exclude the milk immediately after its discovery; (3) that veterinary examinations of herds at least monthly, or weekly bacterial examination of herd milk samples, or a combination of the two, provide a distinct safeguard which, however, is not absolute, since mastitis may develop in the intervals, and that (4) the only certain safeguard is effective pasteurization.—*Health News,* April 1929.

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Wise Recklessness.—A good many centuries ago one of the most far-sighted seers of human history said, in effect, that the man who saves his life may lose it, while the man who loses his life may save it.

If Bernard Shaw or G. K. Chesterton had said this, the world might have dismissed it as a clever bit of journalistic word juggling, a sacrifice of sober truth for verbal effect.

But the world is a bit reluctant to accuse the Galilean Prophet of word juggling.

Jesus was not a journalist.

He did not make a living by tickling the ears of subway crowds with trenchant epigrams. He was a master of trenchant epigram. I do not know a better textbook for budding journalists than the New Testament. But His epigrams and His paradoxes were born, not of conscious word carpentry, but of an insight so deep that its simple expression was so far from the common notion that it seemed strange and bizarre.

It has taken several centuries to grow up to some of His epigrams.

The epigram I have mentioned—that a man may save his life by losing it—is a perfect example of what I mean.

A score of illustrations outside the field of mystical religion can be mustered to show how the world is demonstrating the practicality of this seemingly absurd assertion.

All that is best in the medical profession, for instance, is bent upon making the world so healthy that it will have less and less need for the doctor.

The scientific pioneers in medicine are year by year plotting the eradication of diseases that were the source of bread and butter for their predecessors.

The old doctor made money attending diphtheria cases.

The new doctor prevents diphtheria by a few injections.

Typhoid and tuberculosis tell the same story—diseases that once meant hundreds of visits for doctors are coming under the control of medical science.

Supervision of the health of school children, the employment of district nurses and social workers—all are part of the picture of a profession losing its life as a vast body of private practitioners but saving its life and its dignity in a great adventure in health building and disease prevention.

And there are still other sayings of the great Galilean that are not as paradoxical as they sound.—*Glenn Frank, in Evening World. Medical Times,* April 1929.