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The Hoffman Library for Cancer

THE gift of Dr. Frederick L. Hoffman's cancer library, made jointly by the Prudential Insurance Company and himself, to the Cancer Research Laboratories of the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Medicine is a notable event in the medical history of Philadelphia.

The study of cancer suffers on account of its wide-spread character which results in lack of cooperation and correlation. Many workers in various parts of the world are mentally isolated from their fellow-workers and the mental isolation is more pronounced because there are many different phases of science represented. The physicist is remote from the chemist and the medical man from both. A definite effort is being made by the Cancer Research Laboratories to make a central depot or depository for all cancer facts so that, for the North American continent at least, there will be a collection and reference library available to those interested in cancer.

The Hoffman library includes not only a large number of cancer books and reprints, as well as files of the leading cancer periodicals for this and other countries, but also a large collection of related medical works and the vital and medical statistics of practically the whole civilized world covering at least the last ten years of recorded experience. Aside from these literary resources the library includes all of the original mortality data on cancer collected by Dr. Hoffman for various communities and sections of this country and Canada, exceeding 65,000 transcripts of cancer death certificates and possibly 10,000 or more questionnaires concerning clinical, physical and dietary factors, as well as treatment data and family histories of living cancer patients interviewed by trained research assistants in different cities through local board of health and hospital cooperation.

At the present time, Dr. Hoffman is concentrating most of his attention upon an elaborate study of cancer in relation to diet and nutrition, including the collection of original data in Philadelphia, Boston, San Antonio, and St. Louis. The results of this investigation, however, will probably not become available for several years. The ninth report on the San Francisco Cancer Survey will be pub-

lished during the current year and will bring out a wealth of new data. This will be the final report on that investigation and will include also some additional observations on cancer in relation to diet and nutrition, concerning which the first preliminary observations were published in the eighth report, widely distributed. Dr. Hoffman's cancer publications have been presented to most of the medical libraries throughout the world. The Hoffman Library for Cancer is open to any one in search of information and every possible assistance will be rendered in the furtherance of special methods of research in which the statistical method can be of value.

The present Research Library of the Cancer Research Laboratories will eventually be combined with the Hoffman Library for Cancer to make a reference library for cancer which will be as unique as it will be valuable. The present Research Library was collected for special use in cancer research and contains 542 books, 459 bound volumes of journals and 7309 classified reprints, with author and subject reference.

The two libraries, combined as the Hoffman Library for Cancer will, therefore, be a splendid nucleus for a cancer library, and the aim is to extend and elaborate this collection so that it will be an unexcelled depository for literature on cancer.

To this end Dr. Hoffman, with the assistance of Dr. Ellice McDonald, Director of the Laboratories, will continue his efforts and his wide contact with those interested in cancer throughout the world will be of great value in the extension of the collection.

Dr. Hoffman is a member of the American Society for the Control of Cancer, member of the American Association for Cancer Research, the French Cancer Research Association, the Swiss Research Association and the only American who is an honorary member of the German Society for Cancer Research.

Dr. Hoffman's book, *The Mortality from Cancer Throughout the World*, has become a standard work and source of reference to cancer research workers everywhere, and has been amplified by some eighty publications on cancer in its various aspects, subjected to standardised methods of statistical treatment. Among the more important contributions of Dr. Hoffman mention may be made of his

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first address, *The Menace of Cancer*, contributed to the Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the Gynecological Society, Washington, 1913, which indirectly led to the formation of the American Society for the Control of Cancer of which he has been a director from the beginning up to the present time. His book, *The Mortality from Cancer Throughout the World*, published in 1915, was followed by an important paper, *The Mortality from Cancer in the Western Hemisphere*, contributed to the Second Pan-American Scientific Congress, Washington, 1916.

1917—First annual publication of the cancer record of American cities, published in the *Spectator*, an insurance periodical, from that date to this.

1921—*The Mortality from Cancer in the South*. Orleans Parish Medical Society, New Orleans.

1923—*Cancer and Civilisation*, The Belgian National Cancer Congress, Brussels.

1924—First report on the San Francisco Cancer Survey, eight reports now being available and the ninth in the course of preparation.

1925—*Cancer in Canada*.
Cancer Facts and Fallacies.

1926—*Cancer among French Canadians*, *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*.

Cancer in Native Races.

1927—*Cancer in Mexico*.
Cancer Increase and Overnutrition, The Health Congress of the Royal Institute of Public Health, Ghent, Belgium.

1927—*Cancer in Russia and Scandinavia*, based on personal observations, to the American Public Health Association at its Cincinnati meeting.

1928—*Cancer among North American Indians*. American Cancer Research Association in Washington.

1928—*Statistics of Occupational Cancer*, International Conference on Cancer held under the auspices of the British Empire Cancer Campaign, London.

1928—*Mule Spinners' Cancer*, *Monthly Labor Bulletin*, Washington.

1929—*Cancer of the Lungs*, *American Review of Tuberculosis*.

1929—*Cancer in Hawaii*, First Pan-Pacific Surgical Conference, Honolulu.

1930—*Cancer in Egypt*, American Association for Cancer Research, New York City.

1931—*Some Principles of Cancer Statistics Research*, Second Australian Cancer Conference, Canberra.

1931—*The Occupational Incidence of Cancer*, International Occupational Diseases Conference, Geneva.

1931—*Cancer in the North American Negro*, Rudolph Matas Memorial volume published by Paul B. Hoeber, New York.



- 1932—The Cancer Mortality of Amsterdam, Holland, by Religious Sects, Philadelphia meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research.
- 1933—The Cancer Mortality of Massachusetts, 1860-1929, *New England Journal of Medicine*, Boston.
- 1933—Cancer in British Malaya and the Philippine Islands, Annual Proceedings of the American Association for Cancer Research, Washington.

A paper, Cancer in India, Persia and Ceylon, will be printed in the *Journal of Urusvati Himalayan Research*, and a paper, Cancer of the Prostate and Prostatic Diseases, will be published shortly in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. A paper, Cancer of the Male Generative Organs, was published in 1933 in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. In the same year he contributed a paper, The Geographical Distribution of Cancer in Spain, to the Proceedings of the International Congress for the Scientific and Social Fight Against Cancer, Madrid, and several papers on Cancer in Mexico to the centenary celebration of the University of Mexico and the International Statistical Institute. An earlier paper on Cancer in Mexico, based on personal investigations in that country, was published in 1927.

With this material and with the interest of a man of such experience, supported by a trained personnel, the Hoffman Library for Cancer should develop into great usefulness which will have definite effect upon the control of cancer. All those who have published material can find here a depository for their books and reprints where such material will be available for its greatest use and all who have contributed to the cancer literature are urged to send their publications to the Cancer Research Laboratories, University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Medicine.