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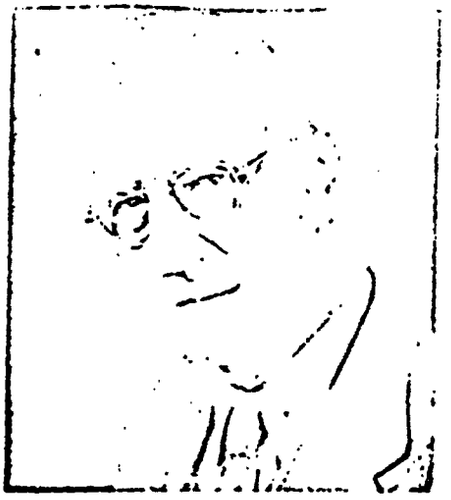
It has been said that "all history becomes subjective; in other words there is properly no history, only biography." Insofar as this is true of the general systems of law and science and culture concerning which it was written, it is also true of the special system of principles and rules and guides that are distinctive of industrial medicine, particularly in their development period. As with all movements that have grown into maturity, industrial medicine had its years when the men who were fashioning its form and shaping its future, themselves made its events,—each distinguished by the addition of a timely talent or a needed ability as its possessor laid it on the altar of his dedication. The history of those years is the combined biographies of those men, and the order of industrial medicine that evolved from their work is the result of their combined contributions. Many of those men are gone, but a few have survived to see their field of endeavor become a profession.



Profiles in Occupational Health

Anthony J. Lanza, M.D.

1884-1964

One of the few is Anthony J. Lanza — "Tony," for so "this side of our known world esteems him." His contribution was an aggregate of contributions, a lifetime of them. That is an objective estimate. His own preference is to characterize his career in terms of one accomplishment rather than many. The nearest he can come to this singularity is to describe his part in the development of industrial medicine as having been principally that of a "catalyzer." It is an apt expression. If the catalyzer concept be transferred from substance to circumstance, and given the working arena of human instead of material contacts, the term may comprehend an action or reaction induced or accelerated by a personal presence, and in that sense it is applicable to much of what this man has been doing for nearly fifty years. The term is his, but the biographer could not have found a better one to describe a part — and only a part, but perhaps in some respects the better part — of his many activities. It is probable that, in "catalyzer" capacity, Tony Lanza has converted more physicians and industrialists to the philosophy of industrial medicine, reconciled more opposing views, made more recommendations in a greater variety of situations, softened away more arguments, attended and presided at more meetings and conferences formal and informal, been chairman of more committees, and guided more discussions into constructive channels than any other man in the field of occupational health. His contributions echo in a thousand places.

Dr. Anthony J. Lanza, a distinguished pioneer in occupational health, died in New York City on Monday, March 23, 1964.

In the November, 1960, issue of this journal, there appeared a living tribute to Dr. Lanza. Since it appears unlikely that any more suitable tribute might be prepared after his death, that 1960 Profile is here reproduced.

Unfortunately for the record as to many of his "catalyzer" accomplishments, however, "echo" is about all that remains in the way of identification. Their details have been obscured by time, and there is practically no documentation in anything he has, nor any guide to it elsewhere in

will admit. He possesses no diary, no [illegible] of clippings, no files of copies or reprints. As to such reminders his comment is that he can't bother with them. If, for reasons of merit, and regardless of whom they concern, they are worth keeping, their preservation is the business of those who staff the archives. This attitude extends to all of his contributions, but it has an added meaning for such of them as have the catalyzer connotation. The catalyst has a use but no history. It comes and goes unchanged. For it to assume that it did more than that, and to buttress the assumption with accumulated proof, might savor of supererogation. And so he preserves few contacts with the past. Among his meager concessions to the permanence of time that is gone are the copies he has in his library of the books of which he was author or editor. Chronologies of the "Who's Who" type he can't escape, but it is suspected that his feeling toward them is acquiescence as much as pride.

The reason for this is not modesty or indifference. Rather it seems involved with temperament and sense of values. About the time he graduated in medicine he was deeply impressed by a statement he found in an essay by Sir William Osler to the effect that if one performs each day's work to the best of his ability he need not be unduly concerned for the future, as it will take care of itself. That, in general, has been his philosophy — "each day's work to the best of his ability." In particular, and in keeping with the sense of finality — almost fatalism — implicit in such discipline, he considers that what is done is done, "and that's an end of it," and now to go on from there. This applies in whatever he undertakes. If he were a bridge player he would treat a hand played as a hand played, and have no interest in the prompt postmortem. Sufficient unto the occasion is what it was; its importance is the score at its end. If that is deserving of a lasting place, the future will put it where it belongs. And Kismet then will be amanuensis.

In terms of his philosophy, and subordinating the "catalyzer" characterization, Tony Lanza's career in industrial medicine is a half-century multiple of "each day's work to the best of his ability." Examination of the "day" in its repetitions, and the "ability" in its manifestations, may, therefore, prove revealing.

Doctor Lanza was born in New York City in March, 1884, the son of Manfredi and Clara (Hammond) Lanza, and was named Anthony Joseph. His father died when he was a small boy, and the family moved to Washington, D. C., where he grew up with the ambition to add one more to the three successive generations in which a family member had practiced medicine in the United States. Successful in a competitive examination for one of the scholarships established by William Corcoran, founder of the Corcoran Art Gallery, he enrolled at George Washington University Medical School, and graduated M.D. in 1906. After a period as Chief Resident at the Eastern Dispensary and Casualty Hospital, he was commissioned in the Marine Hospital Service (later the United States Public Health Service), and in 1907 was assigned to the Marine Hospital in San Francisco. There he had the unforgettable experience of finding in the surgical ward a case of bubonic plague, diagnosed postmortem, whereupon, "all hell broke loose." When the confusion was compounded by the discovery, also in his ward, of a second case, likewise diagnosed postmortem, the Surgeon General sent Doctor Rupert Blue to take command of antiplague operations. Doctor Blue recognized the situation, brought it under control, and the "plague epidemic" aborted.

In 1908 Doctor Lanza was detailed as Ship's Surgeon in the Revenue Cutter Service, now the Coast Guard, and made several cruises to the Aleutian Islands and the Bering Sea on the Cutter *Rush*. He also served on the Cutters *Manning*, *McCulloch*, and *Bear*. The tour of duty on the *Bear* was another experience to be remembered, for the *Bear* — even then recognized as "the stoutest ship ever built" — was to become famous as Admiral Byrd's flagship in the Antarctic in 1933.

Following his Revenue Cutter assignments, Doctor Lanza was appointed Medical Inspector in the Immigration Service, Port of San Francisco. As Boarding Officer he examined immigrants under the same medical regulations as those that governed entry at Ellis Island. After about a year he was detailed to the Marine Hospital Tuberculosis Sanitarium at Fort Stanton, New Mexico. There he became interested in clinical tuberculosis, and in tuberculosis as an occupational disease. That was the beginning of his lifelong identification with industrial medicine.

In 1913 he was sent from Fort Stanton to the old Hygienic Laboratory in Washington, antecedent of the National Institute of Health, and already famous for the work of its distinguished physicians in connection with the principal health problems of the time: Stiles, in hookworm; Goldberger, in pellagra; Lumsden, in typhoid; Francis, in tularemia; McClintock, in Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. At the Laboratory, under preceptors of their quality he received intensive instruction in biological diagnosis and research techniques in general, and when this was finished he was appointed to the Bureau of Mines as Chief Surgeon. From then on his work in the Public Health Service was to be in connection with occupational diseases.