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Paluel J. Flagg Correspondence

Paluel Joseph Flagg 1886-1970

P.J. Flagg 1886-1970

Hilda McLeod Jacob

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Bibliographical

P. J. Flagg M. D.
Lack Of Oxygen Kills 50,000 Persons Yearly

By ALTON L. BLAKESLEE

NEW YORK, Nov. 15, (AP)—Asphyxia, or plain lack of oxygen, kills at least 50,000 persons annually in this country, about one every 10 minutes.

Of these, 50,000 are newborn babies. Then, children and adults, succumb to choking, suffocation, gases, electric shock, diseases and accidents that cut off the oxygen fanning the spark of life.

"Many of these deaths are preventable, through knowledge and alert action," declares Dr. Paluel J. Flagg, president of the Society for the Prevention of Asphyxiating Deaths.

"It is a blot on our medical record that so many die unnecessarily. We have made progress toward reducing these deaths, but the next great step is up to the public, through their support with dollars and their personal interest."

Dr. Flagg is head of the department of pneumatology, the science of using gases for therapeutic purposes, at Manhattan General Hospital. The SPAD, with headquarters at 307 West 11th St., was formed in 1933. It quickly drew the support of the American Medical Association, the American Medical Association, and the surgeons general's offices of the U. S. Public Health Service, army, navy, and Veterans' administration.

At that time, Dr. Flagg said, the average physician, nurse, hospital personnel, and first-aid teams were not sufficiently trained in recognizing the various stages of asphyxiation, and in what to do for each kind of case.

Now, he continued, the art of resuscitation is being taught in more integrated fashion in most medical schools, and hospitals are much more alert to the problem. Since last April, Dr. Flagg said, a clinic on asphyxial deaths has been held every month at the Manhattan General Hospital.

"Much more instruction of this nature is needed, especially for first-aid teams of police and fire departments and other civilian agencies. This expansion is being delayed by lack of funds."

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"Much more instruction of this nature is needed, especially for first-aid teams of police and fire departments and other civilian agencies. This expansion is being delayed by lack of funds."
Dr. and Mrs. Palue J. Flagg of New York, arrived in Honolulu Sunday by air and will be at the

Royal Hawaiian the remainder of this month.

Dr. Flagg will give lectures and opening room demonstrations in Pneumatology.

He is well known for his post-graduate courses in laryngology and pneumatology at the New York Memorial Hospital and is associated with the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary and with the New York City chapter's Nurses Aide Trained Nurses Association. His skill in the field is recognized in medical circles in the U. S. and abroad.

He is the author of the books, "The Art of Resuscitation," "the Sunday Advertiser, a new story described Dr. Palue J. Flagg as a "man of the people," who is well known in New York City, and who has been staying at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel until January 31.

Dr. Flagg is conducting an intensive course in Honolulu on how to reduce deaths caused by lack of air, such as drowning or breathing gases.

He gave illustrated lectures at Mabel Smyth auditorium and also at Waikiki Beach and Queen's Hospital. He brought out various types of resuscitation apparatus and demonstrated actual treatments.

He also discussed anesthetic of each stage and the indications for each treatment. Resuscitation apparatus and resuscitation agents were considered important only in so far as they might be of assistance in saving a life.

The purpose of the course is clear—"it is to save lives now lost during the process of the different forms of acute asphyactical accidents."

Dr. Flagg is consulting pneumologist to the Royal Hawaiian Hotel, while here for consultations with the Queen's and St. Francis hospitals.

Dr. Flagg is also the author of "Pulmonary Diseases." He has been conducting an Intensive course in Pneumatology at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel until January 31.

During the last week Dr. Flagg has also lectured in New York City, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, New Jersey, Nebraska, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia—"for four hours a day, every day, from January 18 to 23.

The course was taken by doctors, nurses, anesthetists, navy dentists, and representatives from the hospital and professional organizations.

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Rudolph Matas, M.D., in the foreword of this 7th Edition, says:

"The appearance of the Seventh Edition of Flagg's *Art of Anaesthesia*, twenty-eight years after the first edition made its debut in the medical world, is sufficient testimonial of its worth and of the esteem in which it is held by the profession.

"Dr. Flagg's now classical text was unique from the start, not only because it condensed the lessons of the author's vast and varied experience as an anaesthetist, teacher and consultant, in the most important hospital centers of surgical experience in New York, but because it was essentially a personal work, largely the work of a pioneer and contributor to the evolution of anaesthesia as it has so marvelously developed in the United States, the country of its real and historic birth.

"Dr. Flagg's life long interest and studies in the causes of asphyxial death, and the means of preventing them, have vastly expanded his conception of the role of the anaesthetist and his functions. While appreciating the importance of anaesthesia as a special occupational field, he perceives inhalation anaesthesia only as a part of a "new and major specialty", in which saving life threatened by asphyxia is the job for which the anaesthetist is particularly fitted, to fill and direct.

"He believes that these triple functions: Anaesthesia—putting people to sleep with gases to prevent pain; Resuscitation—awaking people, with or without the aid of gases, to keep them breathing and save them from asphyxia; and Inhalation Therapy—which treats disease by inhalation of therapeutic gases, when all combined in one person—the trained gas specialist or PNEUMATOLOGIST (a term suggested by Carrel), can render infinitely better service when combined in one responsible expert-head.

"The reader need not look here for long dissertations on controversial subjects or endless columns of bibliographic citations, for this is a personal book, original in the best sense, the mirror of a man's life-long experience in which the stream of progress is viewed critically, lucidly, and judiciously with stress on the solid things that lie in the depths without neglect of the things that float on the surface."

New material stresses: Refrigeration anaesthesia, continuous spinal and continuous caudal anaesthesia and the fire hazard.

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THE ART OF RESUSCITATION

By PALUEL J. FLAGG, M.D.

Author of "Art of Anaesthesia, Chairman, Committee on Asphyxia, American Medical Association, Founder, Society for the Prevention of Asphyxial Death, Inc.

CHEVALIER JACKSON, M.D., in foreword, says:

"You have a happy way of presenting things that will attract many a reader ... to learn from this book means to save human lives."

Selected by Library of Congress from a large number of books examined, for inclusion in the first issue of the United States Quarterly Book List—to introduce important United States Books abroad. "This BOOK should be USEFUL TO those who may be confronted with the problem of saving a fellow-being from asphyxia; this means VIRTUALLY EVERYBODY."

"The author has succeeded in his attempt to present the reader with a clear, precise, and complete picture of the asphyxia patient. The reader's first impression is how could a writer condense under one cover such a vast amount of information and still have a book that is so easy to read."

—Naval Medical Bulletin

"It comes as something of a shock to most of us to learn that the annual death rate in the United States from this cause is about 50,000—a figure in excess of automobile accidents. This seems to be a totally unnecessary loss of human lives."

—Journal of Iowa State Medical Society

"Presentation is clear, timely and interesting. It is an up-to-date summary of knowledge of this important subject."

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"This thorough-going and comprehensive volume, written by one of the world's leading experts on this truly vital subject, presents the theory and scope of the science of Resuscitation and its practical applications in many diverse forms."

—Illinois Scope

—from the Preface

"The purpose of this book is an intensely practical one. It is an attempt, based upon more than twenty-five years of intimate experience with the unconscious patient to tell the reader what to do when faced by an acutely asphyxiated patient about to die. Nothing in the entire field of medicine calls for more understanding and intelligence, for greater calmness and speed combined with a restrained, precise, but strong technique. The instant reward is a life saved at a cost which will vary from a ruptured spleen, fractured ribs, bronchopneumonia, lung abscess, late cerebral effects or prolonged anoxia, on the one hand, to a total absence of morbidity on the other. The dramatic and disturbing environmental factors of the asphyxial accident are due to several causes, i.e., immediate and real danger to life, limited time available for treatment, lack of familiarity with the pathologic physiology involved, ignorance of the appropriate technique to apply in the given case, traditional resistance to instrumentation which may be indicated, routine reliance upon mechanical robots, and despair when these fail."

Published by Reinhold Publishing Co.

May be ordered through

S.P.A.D. 38 EAST 61st STREET, NEW YORK 21, N. Y.
FLAGG, Dr. Paluel J.
Dear Dr. Flagg:

Your charming MAINE HOLIDAY is in the lending section of the library, where we find it one of the appealing and beautiful testaments to the enthusiasm inspired by the state.

It occurs to us that this would be a most appropriate addition to the Maine Author Collection. This is comprised of over fifteen hundred volumes, written by Maine people or about the state, inscribed and presented for this purpose. The inscriptions are varied and interesting, and add much to the worth of the collection, which is constantly increasing, and attracting visitors and students.

We hope that you may want to inscribe a copy of MAINE HOLIDAY for the collection. It would give us pleasure to see it in the exhibit. Please accept our cordial invitation to call at the library and see the Maine Author Collection when you are again in this vicinity.

Sincerely yours

hmj

Encl--1

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
Dear Mrs Jacob;

Your letter of May 21 affords me much pleasure.

I am highly complimented by your gracious reference to "Maine Holiday".

As truth and sincerity are the only -- lure -- in these pages, readers classify themselves by their response. You can well understand how small and how select this group remains, and how welcome you are.

Your request for a suitable inscription has awaited a moment of leisure. It is here and I must seize it before it vanishes.

It is a pleasure to enclose a copy of "Maine Holiday" for placement in the "Maine Authors Collection".

very sincerely yours,

Paluel J. Flagg, M.D.

Mrs F. W. Jacob.
In Charge of Maine Authors Collection.
Maine State Library.
Augusta, Maine
June 4, 1948

Dr. Paluel J. Flagg
38 East 61st Street
New York 21, New York

Dear Dr Flagg:

The inscribed copy of MAINE HOLIDAY is warmly welcomed, and we add it to the Maine Author Collection with appreciation of its spirit, its inscription, and the kind letter from its author.

We think not only the people in Maine and those who vacation here, but also the former State-of-Mainers who are elsewhere, will enjoy MAINE HOLIDAY. We hope it has a wide acquaintance, and we know it will make enduring friends.

Again thank you very much for your interest and generosity. We are delighted to be able to add this copy to the Collection.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
September 25 1948.

Dear Mrs Jacobs:

It would seem that my little "Maine Holiday" should move about and make more friends. I have thought that a Library here and there might be interested to give it hospitality.

Do you object if I quote from your kind letters of May 21 and June 4th by way of reviews? Your name will not appear.

We have just returned from Vinal Haven after a very pleasant summer.

With every good wish,

I remain very sincerely,

Paluel J. Flagg M. D.

Mrs F. W. Jacobs
Maine Authors Collection
Maine State Library
State House, Augusta Maine.

P. S. May I call your attention to "Breath of Life" Woman's Home Companion for August 1948.
September 27, 1948

Dr. Paluel J. Flagg
38 East 61st Street
New York 21, New York

Dear Dr. Flagg:

How unfortunate to have to leave Vinal Haven at the season when some of us think that Maine is at its best with crisp air and autumn colors! But you are more fortunate than those who have only a fortnight in the midst of July heat.

We have no objection to your using excerpts from the letters which you mention. They are not precisely of an advertising nature, but perhaps some of our words will help to convey the sense of pleasure and restfulness and beauty which seems to emanate from MAINE HOLIDAY.

Our exceedingly good wishes for its success, and for a quick winter for its author — quick so that he may return the sooner to Maine!

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
Dear Mrs Jacob;

Thank you so much for your kind letter of September 27th. Your good wishes are sincerely appreciated.

Before we return to Vinal Haven again, thousands of miles of the Pacific Ocean must be successfully flown, for I am scheduled for another lecture tour to Honolulu in January. This reminds me that you may not have seen the enclosed, concerning last year's trip.

However, whatever transpires we look forward and beyond Hawaii, to Vinal Haven for Next June.

Very sincerely yours,

Paluel J. Flagg, M.D.

Mrs F. W. Jacob
State House
Augusta, Maine.