

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

SIR WALTER HOTEL, RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA, JUNE 18th, 1934.

9:00 A. M. Meeting called to order by President Smith. All the members were present. Viz. Dr. Wm. H. Smith of Goldsboro, Dr. K. G. Averitt of Fayetteville, Dr. F. Webb Griffith of Asheville, Dr. Hamilton W. McKay of Charlotte, Dr. Ben Royal of Morehead City, Dr. James W. Vernon of Morganton, and Dr. Ben. J. Lawrence of Raleigh, Secretary-Treasurer.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

It was suggested by Dr. Griffith that the Secretary write Dr. Candler of Sylvia stating that the matter of Dr. J. H. Crawford had been referred to the Solicitor, Mr. Queen, with the request that he, Dr. Candler, render such assistance as he could, obtaining information, etc. for the Solicitor in a confidential manner.

At this point Dr. McKay made a motion that we begin consideration of candidates for endorsement of their credentials. Whereupon the following candidates were interviewed.

Dr. Edith Adele Goodwin	Morganton, N. C.
Dr. William Matthews Long	Statesville, N. C.
Dr. Perry Davis Priest	Donelson, Tenn.
Dr. Fred Oscar Trotter	Hendersonville, N. C.
Dr. Ernest Davis Vanderburgh	Arden, N. C.
Dr. John Hoke Mickley	Tabor, N. C.
Dr. Samuel Harry Justa	Macclesfield, N. C.
Dr. Oscar William Cranz	Wilmington, N. C.
Dr. Harry Wilson Goswick	Winston-Salem, N. C.
Dr. James Murray Washburn,	Chicago, Ill.
Dr. Frederick Oliver Fay	Richmond, Va.
Dr. Lester B. MacConald	Chicago, Ill.
Dr. Ned Carroll Watts	Pinehurst, N. C.
Dr. Madison Edward Parrish	Newberry, S. C.
Dr. Roger Denio Baker	Durham, N. C.
Dr. Emil Bogomir Cekada	Durham, N. C.
Dr. Donald Roderick Insley	Rochester, N. Y.
Dr. Bryan W. Whitfield	Murphy, N. C.
Dr. James Percy Wade	Raleigh, N. C.
Dr. Robert Jewett Jenkins	Gainesville, Ga.
Dr. Parley Martin Dings	Tellico Plains, Tenn.
Dr. William Lee Ballenger	Atlanta, Ga.
Dr. Francis Walthour Poppro	Durham, N. C.
Dr. John Ramsey Harrison	Greer, S. C.
Dr. Carroll Bracy Robertson	Petersburg, Va.
Dr. Joseph Walter Neal, Jr.	Greensboro, N. C.

licensed by call meeting Tuesday afternoon. The credentials of the above candidates having been declared satisfactory, they were granted a license to practice medicine and surgery in the State of North Carolina.

Dr. Casper Woodbridge was not present and his application was not considered. The same was true of Dr. Gustave Ulloth. Dr. J. Bates Henderson was present but action on his application was deferred because of indcision on his part as to whether or not he wanted the license. Dr. Chase Taylor of 1433 Belmont Street, N. W. Washington, D. C. was present. His application was in good form but he did not have his credentials with him. There was a motion made by Dr. Griffith which was seconded by the Secretary, that action upon his application be suspended at present until he could present his credentials to the Secretary of the Board. And that the Secretary be asked to secure all possible information on the candidate. The motion was carried and Dr. Taylor presented his license and his Diploma to the Secretary at his office June 23rd, 1934. They appeared to be in good condition.

Dr. Noah Jackson was present and his application was rejected. It was not in correct form and he did not present his credentials. At the point Dr. R. B. Wilkins appeared before the Board, asking that he be permitted to give a statement on behalf of Dr. J. D. Hemmingway. He Stated "that he had known Dr. Hemmingway all of his life and that he considered him a competent and reliable Physician and that he asked the Board to deal generously with Dr. Hemmingway and that we give him another chance". Whereupon the meeting adjourned 1:45 for lunch with the understanding that we register the candidates for examination at 2:30 P. M. At 2:30 P. M. the candidates for examination were registered.

4:30 P. M. June 18th, 1934. A special call meeting by the President to consider the application of Dr. Thomas A. Smith for re-instatement of his license. This application was presented by Dr. Hamilton W. McKay at the request of Dr. Thomas A. Smith and the Mecklenburg County Medical Society. All the members of the Board were present. Dr. Thomas A. Smith was present. His application was in writing and contained all the necessary data. He admitted that his license #2892 had been revoked in June 1925 by the Board of Medical Examiners on account of violation of the Harrison Narcotic Act. He stated that he was very sorry of this occurrence and that from that time he had lived an upright life. Since that time he had been ordained as a Minister. He had received his Academic degree. He is now working on his Master's degree at some College in Alabama. The candidate was reviewed personally by various members of the Board. Dr. Griffith made a motion which was seconded by Dr. McKay that the license of Dr. Thomas A. Smith #2892 be re-instated on the strength of the evidence before us, consisting of proper proof of the good and upright life for a number of years and upon the recommendation of the Mecklenburg County Medical Society. Dr. Smith was much touched and gave expressions of deep appreciation and pledged to the Board that he would live true to the traditions of our profession. The Board then adjourned to meet at 8:30 P. M. June 18th to consider by special order the case of Dr. J. D. Hemmingway.

Sir Walter Hotel, 8:30 P. M. A special meeting was called to consider the case of Dr. J. D. Hemmingway of Gastonia. The action for the consideration of the revocation of his license. The case was presented by Dr. Hamilton W. McKay upon instructions of the Board conferred upon him at the December meeting, which action was the result of various complaints against Dr. Hemmingway to various members of the Board. Plus the action of the Federal Court in the Western North Carolina District. Dr. McKay presented his findings in writing which had been previously filed with the Secretary together with letters from several members of the Gaston County Medical Society, including W. B. Hunter, S. E. Moser, L. N. Glenn, and J. Sidney Hood. Dr. McKay stated that Mrs. Hemmingway had told him that in her heart she felt that her husband was guilty.

After a full discussion of the evidence before us, Dr. Hemmingway was called before the Board. He was sworn by the Secretary and his case was stated. He admitted having served a seven months sentence in Atlanta Federal Prison. He admitted conviction and was sentenced originally for 18 months. He denied that he had ever committed an abortion. He admitted that he was once charged with a criminal abortion and that he was tried for the same. He denied he was guilty of such a thing. He admitted that he did introduce a catheter in the body of a young woman in question but that he introduced the catheter in her bladder for the purpose of irrigating her bladder.

He contended that various members of his County Medical Society would endorse him and request the Board not to suspend his license. He was very positive that he could secure a majority of the Doctors in his County upon such a petition. After various questions by the members of the Board, there was a motion by Dr. McKay and seconded by Dr. Royal, namely; that, "The Board suspend action on the Dr. Hemmingway case for a brief period not to exceed thirty days. And that during that time Dr. Hemmingway be requested not to practice medicine in North Carolina. That Dr. Hemmingway be requested to get a petition or resolution signed by the Gaston County Medical Society and present it to the Board of Medical Examiners at their next meeting in Morehead City. Dr. J. D. Hemmingway agreed to these instructions. He further agreed to accept the summons there and said he would be present at our Morehead meeting, the time and place to be set by the President and that we further investigate the charges against him at that time".

B. J. Lawrence, Secretary.

At this point the Board was informed that Dr. J. H. Hudson of Greenville, N. C. Route #3 was present and wished to be heard. He was presented to the Board and he presented to the Board a verbal request for the re-instatement of his license which was revoked in 1929 by the Board of which Dr. John MacConnell was Secretary. Dr. J. H. Hudson did not present a formal application in writing and the Board had very little upon which to act. We did however, examine the applicant orally and after considerable discussion the President suggested to Dr. Hudson that he attempt to secure a petition to our Board from the Pitt County Medical Society and that he, Dr. Hudson come before us again after he had secured action upon such a petition by his County Society.



At this point the Secretary-Treasurer presented the Financial Statement and report. Doctors James W. Vernon and Hamilton W. McKay the auditing Committee approved the same.

Sir Walter Hotel, June 19th, 1934 - 12:30 P. M. Meeting called to order by the President to consider the case of Dr. C. F. Harris of Ansonville, N. C. (All the members were present except F. Webb Griffith of Asheville, N. C.) Dr. C. F. Harris was present in person together with his next friends Messrs. Little, the Clerk of Court of Anson County, and Mr. Pruitt, the Solicitor, elect, and Mr. Ross the Clerk of the Town Commissioners of Ansonville. Dr. Harris denied the charges which were brought against him by the Commissioners of the Town of Ansonville regarding the neglect of his practice. Dr. Harris denies the charges as they stand. On further questioning he admitted part of the charges relating to drunkenness and denied neglect of his practice. First he denied periodic drunkenness but admitted having been drunk three or four days to the point of incapacitation during 1934. Second, he denied complete drunkenness for three or four months. He admitted being drunk three or four days during the early part of 1934, prior to his admission to Dix Hill. Third, he denies both charges as to the neglect of two patients. One, a Mrs. Lawhorn and two negro patients. Fourth, he denies being in South Carolina in a Saw Mill Camp but admits being drunk about the time of the charges. He admits he was drunk in company with one, John Randall, and was gone from home three or four days. He was brought home according to his own admission by a Hancock boy. At this point his next friends, Messrs. R. E. Little, Clerk of Superior Court of Anson County, and Mr. R. S. Pruitt, the Solicitor elect of that district, together with Mr. Ross whose signature appeared on the complaint were sworn. Mr. R. E. Little was sworn by the Secretary and he in turn swore Mr. Pruitt and Mr. Ross. These gentlemen acting as friend and advisor to Dr. Harris admitted that the Doctor was badly addicted to drink. Mr. R. S. Pruitt under direct questioning by the Secretary admitted that Dr. Harris was addicted to drink and that he had been drunk to the point of incapacitation at frequent intervals for a period of three years.

Mr. R. E. Little testified that in his opinion Dr. Harris had been drunk to the point of incapacitation about one third of the time during the last four or five years. At this point the meeting recessed until 3:00 P. M.

3:00 P. M. Sir Walter Hotel - Meeting called to order by the President. All members present except Dr. Griffith. Mr. Ross after having been sworn testified that he originally placed his signature on the charges in ignorance of the contents of the charges. After further questioning there was a motion by the Secretary and seconded by Dr. Averitt to the effect "That in view of the testimony before us, of the general reputation of Dr. C. F. Harris as to professional qualifications and upon the promise of Dr. Harris that he would not only cease to get drunk, but that he would stop drinking liquor; that we the Board of Medical Examiners suspend action for a time on the case of Dr. C. F. Harris upon the above promises and upon the promise that Dr. Harris report to the President of the Board or his representative, or to the Secretary of the Board of Examiners, or both each 90 days and show good behavior and soberness for a period to be determined by the Board from time to time. This upon the guarantee and cooperation of his next friends, Messrs. R. E. Little, Clerk of Superior Court, and R. S. Pruitt, Solicitor elect of Wadesboro". This motion was unanimously carried, whereupon Dr. Harris and Messrs. Little and Pruitt entered into an agreement with the Board that they would undertake to guarantee the letter and the spirit of the above in good faith. At this point Dr. Harris apologized to the Board for his acts and for his behavior and again pledged his good faith and integrity.

Dr. J. W. Neal was presented and upon the strength of his credentials, he was granted a license to practice medicine and surgery in North Carolina. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

B. J. Lawrence, Secretary.

Sir Walter Hotel, June 20th, 1934. The meeting was called to order by the President. All the members were present except Dr. Griffith. The Secretary suggested that one, Dr. P. W. Joyner who was licensed by the previous Board and whose name was inserted incorrectly in the face of the license, be granted a new license. This motion was carried unanimously. The Secretary then requested permission to issue a duplicate license to Dr. Ward C. Curtis. His license number is 3494. This motion was carried unanimously.



At this point Dr. McKay suggested that there had been considerable inconvenience to some members of the Board because there was no provision for granting a temporary license in North Carolina to practice medicine between the meetings of the Board. After some discussion as to the advisability and wisdom of such a procedure, the following resolution was introduced by Dr. McKay and seconded by Dr. Royal. Namely; that the Board of Examiners do hereby provide that during the period between sessions of the Board, the following procedure may be considered valid action of the Board, namely; "The applicant must apply to the Secretary, furnishing completed credentials to the Secretary. The Secretary then shall review the credentials and the situation and if the credentials appear to be satisfactory and in his judgement the situation demands special action, the Secretary may then certify him to the other members of the Board and then instruct the Doctor in question to consult four members of the Board, one of whom shall be the Secretary. The members consulted must certify back to the Secretary their approval or disapproval. If they all agree (the Secretary and the three members consulted) that the Doctor in question is qualified to practice medicine and surgery in North Carolina; such action constituting the majority opinion of the Board, the Secretary may then issue a permanent license to practice medicine and surgery to the Doctor in question upon the endorsement of his credentials". This motion was carried unanimously.

The Board had as its guest Dr. L. N. Glenn of Gastonia.

At this point Dr. James W. Vernon of Morganton made a motion that Dr. Ben F. Royal of Morehead City be elected President of the Board to succeed Dr. Wm. H. Smith of Goldsboro. This motion was seconded by Dr. K. G. Averitt and Dr. Hamilton W. McKay and was carried unanimously. Dr. Royal to assume the responsibility of his office at our Morehead City meeting.

At this point Dr. Hamilton W. McKay made a motion that the Board of Examiners meet at the Atlantic Beach Hotel at Morehead City within the next thirty days. The exact date and hour to be fixed by the President and the Secretary. This motion was carried unanimously.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

Signed

B. J. Lawrence
 Ben. J. Lawrence, M. D. F. A. C. S.
 Secretary-Treasurer.



