

**THE
AMERICAN
CLINICAL
AND
CLIMATOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION:
1884–1984**

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PREFACE

The past century has been one of unprecedented advances in medicine. At the beginning of this century, American medicine was in a deplorable state, but a small group of physicians and scientists who recognized the significance of developments in Europe set about to improve medical education, research and practice in this country. The ensuing changes in the United States improved the scientific base of American medicine and motivated those who were to build upon the new foundation. Laboratories for anatomy, bacteriology, biochemistry, pathology, physiology and pharmacology became essential features of medical schools. Hospitals, which became the locus of clinical instruction in the various branches of medicine and surgery, developed closer ties with the medical schools. These hospitals also became the institutional setting for the training of interns and residents, whose education was supervised by the medical school faculties. This reorientation of medicine and the recognition of the specific cause of some of the most widespread diseases led to a surge of interest in prevention of illness and improvement in the practice of medicine generally. Because groups of physicians interested in a particular area of medicine or surgery needed to exchange views, special societies were organized to provide a forum for the presentation of new developments, to allow for communication among these specialists, and to provide for dissemination of knowledge in the particular field to physicians in general.

The American Climatological Association was such an organization, bringing together physicians concerned to a significant degree with tuberculosis and its treatment by residence in a suitable climate. Over its 100 years, the society has expanded its field of interest to that of general medicine—with a corresponding change of name to the American Clinical and Climatological Association. Its membership comprises physicians engaged in both academic pursuits and clinical practice.

Since 1884, the minutes of the yearly meetings, the scientific papers presented, and the discussions of these papers have been published in an annual volume of *Transactions*. These official records, together with personal reminiscences of various members, have been the main source material for this volume. Biographical notes from a variety of sources are intended to show the changing backgrounds and career patterns of the Association's most active physicians. (Further details of the scientific papers may be found in the various annual volumes.) A chronological format for this history seemed most appropriate to accommodate the information available and reflect most vividly the changing scene of medicine through the activities of the Association. Along with the impact of the rapid advances in medicine on the Association, this chronological approach shows the Association's evolution into its present vigorous state, providing a place for the presentation and critical discussion of the events that form the cutting edge of progress in internal medicine.