

# SAYS DOCTORS WERE MISTAKEN

### Physicians Claim the President Did Not Die From Causes As Originally Announced.

President Harding's physicians were mistaken. The President did not die "from apoplexy or a rupture of a blood vessel in the axis of the brain near a respiratory center" as his physicians announced. He died from a blood clot from a diseased heart, known technically as an embolism, says the Kansas City Star.

This is the prevailing medical opinion in Kansas City. The subject is one of general discussion in every part of the country among physicians. Information here is that everywhere the same view is held.

Physicians refused to be quoted on the subject. It is contrary to medical ethics publicly to criticize fellow practitioners, but they have decided views privately on the way the President's case was diagnosed and handled. The statement that follows is based on interviews with six medical men, including leaders of the profession in Kansas City.

"How can you be certain the president's death was not caused by a ruptured blood vessel in the brain?" these men were asked. "There was no autopsy. How can you know it was a blood clot?"

"President Harding died without a moment's warning" was the reply. "He had spoken to Mrs. Harding. Then he sank down and was dead. A cerebral hemorrhage, a ruptured blood vessel in the brain, never causes instant death. The patient immediately becomes unconscious but usually he lives several hours."

One physician did not want to say that instant death from a ruptured blood vessel was impossible but even he had never heard of such a case.

The shortest time between the stroke and death that was recalled by any of the six was thirty-five minutes. One man of wide experience could recall one death that took place an hour after the stroke. Another reported two hours as the shortest time that he had known.

The physicians agreed that the most invariable cause of sudden death is a blood clot from the heart. If it is a small clot it may lodge in an artery in the leg and cause gangrene. It may get into the lung area and be mistaken for pneumonia. If it is a large clot it may block a main artery. Then the circulation is stopped and the patient simply sinks out.

Another possibility is the sudden stopping of an overtaxed heart muscle. But a physician who has seen several deaths from this cause said that in no case did the end come without distinct warning lasting some little time.

"Was an incorrect diagnosis responsible for the President's death?" was a question asked of each of the physicians. "Could he have been saved if the case had been understood correctly?" "Could any treatment have helped him?"

"No and yes" was the answer. "At San Francisco it probably was too late to save him. There is no more harm for an embolism than there is for a cerebral hemorrhage. When you are dealing with a head brain the only way to help it is by resuscitating before it gets into the final stage. In the President's condition as revealed by the bulletins, he ought never to have been allowed to go on the trip. Certainly his illness in Kansas City should have been a warning to call the trip off. That was the time to save his life."

"Here is the general picture," a composite statement of these men would say based on the official bulletins. The President was told had a touch of kidney trouble, a blood pressure of 180, and hardening of the arteries. He was considerably over the normal weight. All these conditions put an abnormal strain on the heart and we should expect to find his heart fatigued and enlarged. In fact a bulletin after his death mentioned heart symptoms that had been evident since his attack of influenza last spring.

"Perhaps it is being wise after the event, but the condition was such that the President was taking a serious risk in undertaking so strenuous a trip. It would have been hard on a well man and Mr. Harding was not well. Any ordinary patient with these symptoms would have been cautioned by his physician to take care of himself and avoid strain. Certainly the situation called for a close watch on the President and for the abandonment of the trip as soon as the heart showed itself laboring under the strain.

"That there was such evidence is indicated by informal reports that Mr. Harding complained of fatigue and of his failure to recuperate.

"On the return voyage from Alaska he had an attack which was reported as ptomaine poisoning. We were less concerned in the symptoms of a touch of intestinal indigestion than we were in the unmistakable heart symptoms that were reported.

At Seattle the President was barely able to finish his address because of heart fatigue.

"Mr. Harding is taken to San Francisco. It is announced that he is recovering from his intestinal attack when a slight pneumonia sets in. Possibly this was a correct diagnosis. It cannot be disputed at long distance. But in view of the heart situation and of what happened later there is a strong chance that the pneumonia symptoms were really those of a blood clot in the lungs called technically an infarct."

"Next it is announced that the President is recovering. He has no temperature but he still has a rapid heart. In combination with his history and what had gone before that should have been a danger signal. But it seems to have been ignored. Then death comes without warning, and the bulletin says it came when the President was recovering from his acute illness; that it was due to apoplexy or rupture of a blood vessel in the axis of the brain near the respiratory center, and that it might have occurred at any time" inferring that it had no connection with his illness.

The illness on the return from Alaska was heart trouble. It was the beginning of the end. The President was not in the process of recovery from an acute illness when he died. His heart was showing symptoms of its dangerous condition. He did not die from apoplexy or a cerebral hemorrhage. He died from a blood clot from the heart that stopped the circulation. It was not something that might have occurred at any time. It was something directly brought on by the strain of the trip on a man in his weakened condition."

Not all of them would express themselves as vigorously in unqualified criticism of those in charge of the case as this statement indicates but they were in agreement on the broad facts.

What causes a blood clot, and what which ended the President's life, the physician was asked.

He explained that a dilated and feebly acting heart with inside walls roughened by disease was a favorable place for the blood to congregate. Clots are apt to form against the side of the walls of the chamber—the left ventricle.

Then a fragment of the coagulated blood breaks off and is expelled from the heart into the blood stream. If it is large enough to block an artery death is immediate.

How did it happen that symptoms regarded by physicians as obvious should have escaped the attention of the men called in to attend the president? On this subject there was a general reluctance to speak.

Mr. Harding's personal physician, one of the medical men said "was a warm personal friend of long standing. He was devoted to the President, but is not a man whose training and experience would be thought to qualify him to take charge of an important case. The naval doctor in attendance has had a limited experience. The two presidents of the American Medical Association who were called in as consultants are distinguished men but have been out of active practice for several years. Dr. Work favored a sanitarium for medical and nervous diseases in the west. He has been so busy in politics that he has been chairman of his State Committee, national committeeman, and a cabinet officer. Dr. Wilbur has been a university president for the past seven years swamped with administrative details. I know little about the fifth consultant, Dr. Cooper, but I believe he is a man of excellent standing. I do not know how much he had to say about the President's case.

"However, nobody could have saved his life in San Francisco. The chance to save it was in Washington. That chance was overlooked."

### Fourth Class Postmaster Examination.

The United States Civil Service Commission has announced an examination to be held at West Jefferson, N. C. on October 5, 1923 as a result of which it is expected to make certification to fill a contemplated vacancy in the position as fourth class postmaster at Brownwood, and other vacancies as they may occur at that office unless it shall be decided in the interests of the service to fill any vacancy by reinstatement.

The compensation of the postmaster at this office was \$536 for the last fiscal year.

Candidates for the past thirty years of the Peace in Mitchell and Avery. The aged citizen has the distinction of having served as justice of the peace in Boone this week. Spending some time in Boone this week. Squire Clay of Newland has been in and around Boone.

Mr. J. Frank Norris and family of Charlotte have been spending the past week with home folks and friends. Mr. J. Frank Norris and family of Charlotte have been spending the past week with home folks and friends. FIVE ACRE TRACT NEAR HIGHWAY AND TRAINING SCHOOL FOR SALE. H. W. HORTON.

## FARMER GOT NEWS BEFORE CITY FOLK THIS TIME, BY RADIO

Since radio started to equalize things in the matter of keeping folks posted as to what's going on, farmers have not only been placed on the same footing with city dwellers, but on occasion they have even "beat 'em to it." One such case occurred on the evening of July 4, when a party of city men, returning from an automobile trip in the Adirondacks, began to speculate on how the Dempsey-Gibbons prize fight resulted.

Passing a farm and noticing that there was a radio antenna stretched between the house and the barn, they stopped to inquire if any news had been received. The farmer was found just coming in from the barn. He listened to their question calmly, and immediately answered: "Dempsey won on points."

He had heard the report of the fight as broadcast by WGY, the General Electric Company's station at Schenectady, N. Y.—and he had got the news as quickly as anyone in the United States. Even the metropolitan newspaper offices did not have it any sooner.

## BEST ENERGY IS POWER LINE KIND

Agricultural Engineer Says This Sort Gives Farms Volume of Power Needed.

### IS FLEXIBLE SERVICE, TOO

Steadily the trend of electrical development in the United States is reaching out to embrace the un-electrified rural sections and the great farming areas, according to C. A. Atherton, chairman of the power lines committee of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers. Mr. Atherton, who is in the engineering department of the General Electric Company's National Lamp Works, is positive that the various difficulties now retarding the extension of electric transmission lines into farming districts by electric light and power companies will be successfully met.

"American farms," he said, following the recent annual convention of the National Electric Light Association,

"are now using three hundred thousand isolated electric light and power plants. Such plants will probably always be used in the more remote districts. But it is only natural that what the farmer really wants is the convenient flexible and less limited service from the big city power houses.

**Farming a Big Industry**  
"The electrical interests themselves want to know how far electricity can be economically carried into the rural districts. Farming is the biggest and most important industry in every country. Not only does it employ more people, but it uses more power than any other. It is comparable in size with general manufacturing of all commodities.

"Undoubtedly the chief factors in creating the present strong demand for electricity on the farm are the growing realization of the labor saving which may be effected for the farmer's wife and a newly awakened pride in having the most up-to-date living conditions. Yet the part of electricity in the industry of agriculture is by no means small, only there must be adequate farm machinery for electrical application.

Electrified farm machinery must be quite different from the heavy farm machinery of the past, intended for use a few hours each year, and then allowed to stand without attention until the next season. It must be made small, efficient, probably operating at a higher speed, and must be automatic.

### Division of the Energy

"It must be arranged so that each morning the raw material may be fed in a switch turned and without more attention the finished material piled or stored automatically. An entire process with such a machine might consume several weeks, demanding a quarter horsepower to do what formerly took four or five men and a sixty horsepower steam engine two days to do.

"But sixty horsepower, two days a year, is very impractical and unprofitable on an electrical line, whereas eight weeks of a quarter horsepower is quite practical and may be made a profitable part of the producing equipment of the farm."

### Better Than the Mine Mule

In a Wyoming coal mine there is an electrical mine locomotive that is still going strong after 27 years. It was built by the Thomson-Houston Electric Company, predecessors of the General Electric Company, and has hauled 2,712,500 tons of coal an average of 1.5 miles. Many a mule has gone to a quiet grave in that period, for mules may come and mules may go, but an electric locomotive goes all the time.

## Reginald Denny



Popular Reginald Denny, the "movie" star, was born in the Midlands of England 32 years ago. He stands six feet two and is a natural-born boxer. He is married. During the war he served with the British flying corps and was champion heavyweight of his brigade. He has been seen in some of the leading pictures.

She should wear an sgrate if she wishes happiness and success. According to its promise, it will bring her the desire of her heart, give her courage and a dauntless will. Thursday is her lucky day and 4 her lucky number. The wild rose is her flower.

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### A LINE O' CHEER

By John Kendrick Bangs.

### THE PLAYFUL SKIES

THE fleecy clouds that speed by night give me a long-forgot delight. For, as they sail along the blue, The merry stars play "peek-a-boo!" Right merrily With me, And even though I reap but chaff, 'E'en as a little child I laugh, And childish laughter now and then Is mighty good for worried men. (© by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

## Uncommon Sense

YOUR LEISURE HOURS

LIKE a machine, you only rust while you are idle. Rest is necessary. Idleness is not.

Ideas come oftenest in your leisure hours. By making use of these hours, not only for rest and recreation, but for thought, you may make them the most valuable part of your life. This is particularly true of men who are employed upon tasks which require more attention than inventiveness.

There is much tedious work to be done in the world. Once the motions are learned there is nothing to do but follow them. Day after day it is the same thing over again, till the mind becomes numb and the heart sick with sheer weariness.

If you have this kind of a job, you will have to do most of your thinking in your hours of leisure. It is then that your brain, relieved of the strain of constant attention to a humdrum job, will be at its best.

It is then that you will have time to read—to think, to consider the future and what you mean to do in it.

Even the dulllest duties can be done better by a thoughtful man than by an unthinking one.

But if you are engaged on—we will say—a commonplace bookkeeping job, you will have no time to figure out better ways of working while you are bent over your desk with your pen in your hand.

Your attention will be wholly consumed by the labor. When the labor is done for the day—when you can look at it from a distance—you will begin to get more light on it.

Lucky is the man whose job is a constant incentive to thought. The engineer, the painter, the writer, can think as he works, and his mind grows with each day's task well done.

But such places in life are few. Most of us must do the daily grind as cheerfully as we can, and when the whistle blows or Sunday morning dawns, think how we are going to get a better job.

Recreation, exercise, both are necessary. Play is as useful as work. But nowadays every man has more leisure than he needs for play. If he employs it intelligently it may become more important than all his working hours.

Be systematic about the use of your leisure. Read in it, study in it, think in it. And it is more than likely that the habit of thought you thus develop will carry you out of the rut to the threshold of fortune.

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**REMEMBER THE DATES—Tickets—Same as before the war, during and after the War—\$1.00 for three days ticket; 50 Cents one day; Children over six years old 25 cents. SEPTEMBER 12, 13, and 14.**