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CONTEMPORARY HISTORY

THE SERVICE TO MEDICINE IN SIAM

RENDERED BY

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE MAHIDOL OF SONGKLA,  
C. P. H., M. D. (Harvard)

A. G. ELLIS, M. D.

*Dean, Faculty of Medicine, and Director of Siriraj Hospital*

FOREWORD

The influence of His Royal Highness Prince Mahidol of Songkla upon medicine in Siam was many sided and far reaching. His financial contributions, his scholarships for study abroad, his staunch support of a high standard for medical education, his espousal of medical research, his keen interest in the training of nurses, his abiding belief in the value of child welfare work, his enthusiasm for the various phases of public health, his personal selection of medicine as a profession—all these are to be considered in a summary of his interests and accomplishments.

And behind all these activities that had a direct bearing upon the health of his countrymen was the man himself. His dominant yet extremely modest personality, his charming manner, his high moral character, his innate kindness of heart, his admirable qualities as a husband and father, all combined to make him a refined and distinguished and lovable gentleman, in the truest sense of that word. Any chronicle of his scientific and philanthropic achievements without reference to these personal attributes which dictated them would be one-sided and incomplete. Therefore the following pages not only attempt to describe the service to medicine rendered by Prince Mahidol; they also embody a personal appreciation of the man, arising from the great privilege of having been called his friend.

One assumes a heavy responsibility in writing even a brief tribute to such a character. Would that my words were more fitting to their task. May their weakness be partially compensated by the fact that they are written in all sincerity and humbleness, in admiration and profound respect.

(SIGNED) A. G. ELLIS

December, 1932

## CHAPTER I

## THE YEAR 1920 (B. E. 2463)

This narrative begins with the year 1920 because during that year the influence of His Royal Highness Prince Mahidol on medicine in his country first assumed active and definite form. In July he came to Siriraj hospital to arrange for laboratory work during the few months that were to elapse before returning to his studies in Harvard University. At that time he had already taken a preliminary year and the first two years of the regular course in the Faculty of Medicine of Harvard. In addition, before returning to Siam to attend the cremation ceremonies for the late Queen Mother, H. M. Queen Soavabha Bhongsri, he had completed half of a third year devoted to hygiene and public health. This change from the regular medical course to the one in public health was, to the best of my knowledge, due partly to his appreciation of the great need of public health work in Siam and partly to the persuasive efforts of the much-liked Professor of that department.

At this time therefore, Prince Mahidol was well along in the study of medicine, which he had decided to take up as a profession. And at about the same time he began medicine himself, he also began his extension and multiplication of personal usefulness by taking to the United States in 1917 two young men to study medicine on his scholarships. (Both these men are now rendering splendid service to their country, one in the Faculty of Medicine, one in the Department of Public Health.)

Our hospital laboratory at Siriraj was at the time under discussion much cramped for space and scantily equipped. Hence my first reaction to the news that His Royal Highness (then a stranger to me) was coming to work with us had been that of despair, almost of protest; we were not at all prepared to receive a high member of the Royal Family. But within a few minutes after he came he had reassured and completely disarmed me and had converted me into as humble an admirer as was any of his own countrymen. Despair had been replaced by pleasurable anticipation of working with this most modest but capable student of medicine.

His interest in the subject was so great as to entirely submerge his social position during these periods and make of him simply an enquiring laboratory worker with the rest of us. He said he had been studying preserved and mounted amebae and malarial and other parasites at Harvard and wished to see the living forms here. The assistants in the laboratory could at first hardly carry on their work when he was with them and were very backward in answering his questions. He asked me the reason for this and was genuinely surprised when I explained that they were too much awed by the presence of a Prince of his rank. "But," he said, "when I am working in the laboratory they should treat me as a student, not as a Prince. They are to do their own work and also help me by answering my questions." This they gradually came to do but not with as much freedom as he would have liked.

This difficulty of correlating his high position with the scientific work in which he was so intensely interested came to light in different ways. At that period when he was studying hygiene and public health at Harvard, a required part of the course was making a sanitary survey of a town. This consists of a close study and tabulation of actual conditions found in the town or city, as to streets, houses, habits of living, drainage, disposal of refuse, water supply, markets, and other points in any way affecting the health of the people. Prince Mahidol wished to employ at least part of the three months at his disposal in making a sanitary survey of Bangkok. This would have been a real help to him in his course of study and have furnished the opportunity of collecting information regarding his own city that would have been invaluable to him and the city authorities in later years. Everything seemed favorable for such a survey.

But one day he came to the laboratory and told me in deep disappointment that he would have to give it up. The reason: His sense of fairness to every one demanded that he ask advance permission of the officials at each place he wished to visit. When he arrived he would find all the elements of a formal reception—decorations, tents, all officials and employees at attention, work so far as possible suspended. There would be speeches, a formal inspection of premises specially made immaculate for the occasion, tea would be served and politeness would dictate that he then take his leave.

The notebook in his pocket would have none of the data he wished to collect as a student seeking facts regarding actual conditions and routine work. His Royal Highness possessed a keen sense of humor and his description of these receptions was to us highly entertaining. But the underlying condition was not so humorous. In my early ignorance of the true character of Prince Mahidol I suggested that as his position gave him the right to lay down conditions as he chose, he might make his inspections incognito and do away with official receptions.

This, he explained, he could not do with propriety because his position demanded that he ask permission of officials to make such studies. With permission granted, custom required these receptions by the officials. His appearance incognito and unannounced would wound the feelings of the concerned persons who wished to pay their respects to him and he felt that this would not be right. He therefore allowed this survey to drop, although deeply regretting that it was advisable so to do.

This incident showed the fairness of Prince Mahidol and his appreciation of what his position meant to government officials and in addition his innate kindness of heart and sensibility to the feelings of others. It is related here because of the feeling by some that his residence and studies abroad had led him to imbibe so much of foreign, and especially democratic, ideas that he developed a degree of dissatisfaction with his own people and country. Others felt that his taking up the profession of medicine had led to something of the same result, particularly in respect to the carrying out of his Royal prerogatives. My acquaintance, official and personal, with His Royal Highness enables me to say that these inferences were not well founded. They were based on superficial observation and secondary events and not on a real knowledge of his disposition, his aspirations, his loyalty to King and country.

Some of the misjudgments in respect to his attitude toward his country and his people were due to the fact that he was an implacable foe of inefficiency, dishonesty, laziness, immorality, the playing of petty politics, and pretensions of all kinds whatsoever. His reactions to these were intense and led to official and personal expressions that left no doubt as to his feelings. But this was

antagonism to acts of individuals or groups of persons, based on principles of conduct for which he had a high standard; it was not antagonism to government or people or country as such. His study of medicine and public health and child welfare certainly did not cause him to lose interest in his people; all of these things were for the sole purpose of helping them avoid sickness and untimely death. Truly he became impatient, very impatient, with affairs and men at times, for he was thoroughly human and very sensitive and was easily disturbed by lack of appreciation and by unfavorable comment. But a healthy dissatisfaction with affairs in one's own country, accompanied by efforts to improve them, is an element in the highest brand of patriotism. In the case of His Royal Highness these were things on the surface of a deep love for his people and country and it would be unfair to intimate that his adoption of the science of medicine, and the learning of it abroad, disturbed in any way these natural and deep-seated affections.

The work of His Royal Highness in the laboratory at Siriraj hospital was continued into September. During this time he was also teaching histology to medical students at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. He was deeply interested in the work of students and nothing pleased him more than to help them by preparing outlines of subjects and teaching. At that time microscopes for this work were few in number but he was undaunted by lack of facilities; he made the most of the equipment at hand and worked the harder himself. He was keen in getting knowledge at first hand. The question arising as to the presence of a certain parasite in the blood of Siamese people, His Royal Highness arranged for the examination of men in prison. It was necessary to do this at night because that is the time the parasite appears in the peripheral circulation, so we went and obtained a specimen from each of 128 prisoners, finishing the work after midnight. A further instance of his broad-minded interest in affairs of sanitation was shown by his mentioning one day in conversation that he hoped to see the installation in Siam of crematories. These he said would not come soon but he hoped later to help in their introduction as an improvement on the old-style insanitary procedures.

During this period His Royal Highness was engaged in raising

money for a new building for pathology and hospital laboratory work at Siriraj. He spoke of erecting the building if the government would equip and maintain it, or if desired, he would contribute the second part. This particular building was finally erected by the University and Prince Mahidol contributed instead the men's surgical building, housing 58 patients and costing Ticals 80,000. This was his way of working; if he could not secure needed money from other sources he would contribute the amount himself. This generosity was of the greatest help to the medical school and hospital and was invariably without ostentation. The hospital building above mentioned has been used for years without having an inscription placed on it, His Royal Highness being averse to having his name thus brought into prominent view.

The contemplated erection of the new laboratory brought out the fact that more land was needed for the hospital compound. To this matter His Royal Highness also applied himself, with the result that an addition was finally made to the compound on the side toward the railway property at Bangkok Noi; a building was erected on this before his return to Siam.

On September 6 of this year (1920) came the announcement of a gift to the University of an endowment fund of Ticals 200,000, made by Prince Mahidol to celebrate his twenty-eighth birthday and in honor of his father and grandmother. The income of this fund is used in providing scholarships for students and members of the staff of the University to study abroad for periods of four or more years. These scholarships are in medicine or in the major premedical subjects of chemistry, physics and biology. This generous gift therefore provides in perpetuity a fund for the education of students or teachers of medicine or the premedical branches of science. Establishing this endowment was one of the far-seeing efforts of His Royal Highness to provide well trained teachers or practitioners of medicine and teachers of the sciences that are the foundations of medicine. It was an addition to his provision of personal scholarships instituted in 1917.

That this idea of preparing medical teachers for the future was constantly in his mind was at this time given a further proof. During his studies in the laboratory at Siriraj he had been impressed

by the work of one of the members of the laboratory staff. When he left in October to continue his studies at Harvard, he took this man along on an additional private scholarship. The man thus selected is now head of a department in the Faculty of Medicine.

The aversion of Prince Mahidol to public demonstrations in his honor was further shown in connection with his gift of the previously mentioned endowment fund to the University. The authorities of that institution of course greatly appreciated this gift and very naturally wished to show their gratitude in a fitting manner. Therefore a meeting of the entire personnel—administrative officers, teaching staff and students—was arranged, with a program of speeches of acceptance and reply, according to world-wide custom on such occasions. To the consternation and disappointment of everybody, His Royal Highness said that he would not attend the meeting. He said he was sorry to disappoint the people of the University but his part was to do the things that he could for the institution, and not to attend a meeting of this type and be the hero of the occasion and hear himself glorified. So the meeting was not held.

During this stay in Bangkok, His Royal Highness wrote a popular article on "Tuberculosis" for the Department of Public Health to print as a pamphlet. This was distributed at the cremation ceremonies for H. R. H. Prince Chakrabongs of Bishnulok on September 24, 1920.

On October 4 His Royal Highness left for America to complete his year of public health at Harvard University. His stay of a few months in Siam during this year had brought about a great change in the outlook of medicine, especially of the medical school and Siriraj hospital. Extra land for the compound was assured and there were promises of money for the erection of school and hospital buildings. University scholarships were provided by his endowment and his personal scholarships were to be increased in number. The Minister of Education stated at the station his belief that enough impetus had been given by the work of the Prince to last until he returned; the medical situation to him now seemed bright where a few months before there had been only darkness.

## CHAPTER II

## THE YEARS 1921-1923 (B. E. 2464-2466)

The chief medical event for this country in these years was the negotiation between the Siamese Government, as represented by the Ministry of Education, and the Rockefeller Foundation, through its Division of Medical Education, looking to the co-operation of the latter in a program of advancement of medical education in Siam. Only a brief summary of the steps in that important event can be given here.

This project arose from the needs of the Siamese Red Cross Society and the International Health Board of the Foundation in their several years' campaign against hookworm disease. The need for better-trained physicians in this work was very keenly felt. In 1920 the representative of the International Health Board in Siam, Dr. M. E. Barnes, began quietly working on the subject of a possible co-operation in medical education.

This subject by various steps reached the point that on May 16, 1921, His Excellency the Minister of Education sent to the Foundation a note of inquiry regarding the matter. On July 29 a reply from President Vincent of the Foundation stated that Director Pearce of the Division of Medical Education might come to Siam and look into the proposition. On October 31, Dr. Pearce arrived in Bangkok, leaving on November 7. With officials of the Ministry he discussed the question of medical education and the Minister asked him to suggest a plan for its improvement. On January 23, 1922, the Minister received a letter from Dr. Pearce embodying his suggestions on the subject in question.

On February 6, 1922, Prince Mahidol entered these discussions by a conference in London with President Vincent and Dr. Rose, General Director of the International Health Board. Both of these men were most favorably impressed by his interest in medical education and his frankness in discussing the conditions then existing in Siam. On February 25, Prince Mahidol had another conference with President Vincent, in Berne, Switzerland. They discussed the financial undertaking in establishing and maintaining a modern medical

school. His Royal Highness realized the difficulties to be overcome in Siam and again impressed Dr. Vincent by mentioning them in a way indicating that he wished the Foundation to grasp fully the situation in order to avoid future misunderstandings.

In April Prince Mahidol was appointed by the Minister of Education president of a committee to handle the matter and in May sent his opinion regarding the suggestions of Dr. Pearce. In August, the Minister of Education, in reply to the suggestions of Dr. Pearce, stated that Prince Mahidol would take up with him the question of details as to the proposed co-operation, His Royal Highness being authorized to act as the representative of the Minister.

On October 2, 1922, the first meeting between Prince Mahidol and Dr. Pearce took place in Paris. At that time the details of a plan of co-operation with the Faculty of Medicine were fully worked out, subject to approval by the Siamese Government and the Foundation. This approval was given by both parties and was followed by other conferences in London and New York as plans developed in regard to buildings, appointments and fellowships.

The program included 1. six visiting professors to organize the major branches of instruction; 2. a building program involving the contribution by the Foundation of \$125,000 (later increased to \$130,000); and 3. Foundation fellowships to Siamese teachers for postgraduate study abroad. (A second co-operative building program for the medical and nursing schools, involving Ticals 300,000 each from the Foundation and the Government, was arranged later.)

In May, 1923, Dr. W. S. Carter, Assistant Director of the Foundation's Division of Medical Education, visited Bangkok. In conjunction with His Excellency the Minister, His Excellency Phya Baisal Silpasatra (the Under-Secretary), and Dr. Barnes, a proposition looking to an additional co-operation of the Foundation with the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, for the purpose of advancing the instruction of the premedical years (thus aiding the medical school) was drawn up and sent to Prince Mahidol. In September His Royal Highness signified his approval of this plan and in November the Minister sent a formal application to the Foundation. The plan was later endorsed by that organization and a five-year program was

made out. It included arrangements for four visiting professors and a number of postgraduate fellowships.

The later co-operation with the School of Midwifery and Nursing of Siriraj hospital followed as described in Chapter III. These activities rapidly advanced medical and nursing education, bringing them to a point in their progress that was pleasing to His Royal Highness. Attainment and maintenance of a high standard in both was his earnest desire.

These things have evolved from the first program as arranged with Dr. Pearce by Prince Mahidol. The deep interest of His Royal Highness in medical education, his being engaged in the study of medicine himself, his frankness, his transparent honesty of purpose, his own financial contributions to the school and hospital as elsewhere described, had a very great deal to do with favorable consideration by the Foundation. And he was of the greatest help in arranging the multiplicity of details regarding the co-operation, thus successfully bringing this aid to medical education in Siam. The highest praise is to be accorded his efforts in this affair.

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### CHAPTER III

#### THE YEARS 1924-1925 (B. E. 2467-2468)

During the whole of 1924 and the first half of 1925, Prince Mahidol was in Siam. This was a period of multiple activities in connection with the progressing premedical and medical education and also in other medical lines, especially public health.

When the details of Foundation co-operation with the Ministry of Education were completed in 1923, they concerned only the Faculty of Medicine. As mentioned in Chapter II, later co-operation with the Faculty of Arts and Sciences included visiting heads for the departments of Physics, Chemistry, Biology and English and fellowships for postgraduate studies by teachers in the three first-named subjects. New laboratories of science were to be built and equipped by the University.

The location and erection of the building for these laboratories

brought into question a number of points concerning the future of the University. Many of these points were difficult to settle and there were greatly diversified opinions regarding them. Prince Mahidol was deeply interested in the University (he was at that time Director-General) and had been from the time of our first meeting. He favored a general survey of University and secondary school education as a basis for deciding upon the work to be accomplished by the institution, including the number of faculties necessary for carrying out this work. He often expressed the view that it had never been proved that Siam needed a University modeled after those of Western countries; at least agriculture, business, and the training of teachers were important points to be considered in its final organization.

At that time the premedical students formed the great majority of those attending the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. If this were to continue, Prince Mahidol believed the science building should be at Siriraj, with the teaching controlled by the Faculty of Medicine. But if that were done and these students withdrawn from the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, it would be a serious blow not only to that Faculty but also to the University itself, if the latter was to be continued and expanded. The claims of the University as a whole were finally decided by His Royal Highness to be stronger than one of its faculties and he abandoned the idea of the science building at Siriraj Hospital; it was finally placed in the University grounds.

During the year 1924 the medical law of B. E. 2466 was being put into effect by the organization of the Medical Council. A number of points as to its relation to the medical school were rumored or actually raised. His Royal Highness advocated an attitude of caution by officials of the Ministry and the school in order to avoid any possible conflict over details between organizations that were working for the same end, namely, the advance of medicine in Siam. This was one of his marked traits, the avoiding of serious differences between parties that should work together. This does not mean that he was willing to sacrifice principles or well-grounded opinions simply to ensure smoothness of negotiations; his attitude was that of extending discussion, of advancing further reasons, of

getting at the real facts of the case. And always with a broad view toward opposing opinions if he felt they were honestly held; if he felt there were ulterior motives or maneuvering simply for advantage or for personal gain, he was adamant.

In February of 1924, Prince Mahidol took official quarters at the Ministry of Education and notification was given that all medical school matters were to be taken up with him. Siriraj hospital affairs were also to go through his hands. Thus began a work that soon became very distasteful to him. His scientific mind rebelled against the sitting at a desk signing papers, smoothing out differences of opinion, correcting errors of subordinates, and following the thousand-and-one details of routine office work. He wished after a short time to get away from this and take a teaching position.

The work during this period brought him very often to the hospital and he would talk to me by the hour, going over all the University situation (especially the two faculties concerned with pre-medical and medical education) from every possible angle. Plan after plan for the remaining buildings of the University was made and discarded as unsatisfactory until he had one that pleased him fairly well. Then the medical school, the hospital, the grounds, the buildings needed in reconstruction, the teachers, the nursing situation, every point was considered in minute detail. Added to these matters were his personal aspirations for further medical study and teaching and his plans for scholarships. In these talks he bared his inmost thoughts and I came to know and understand the man as never before and I believe as but few persons ever came to know him. Through it all his real character stood out as a beacon among the storms of impatience with routine work and the serious pessimism caused by slow-moving improvements and his inability to advance them more rapidly or according to his own plans. These pessimistic periods affected His Royal Highness adversely from a physical standpoint because he was not of the rugged type to withstand such strain. But whatever the effect of his impatience was upon himself, or upon others, his basic principles and his ambition for medicine in his country were ever clear; nothing obscured those principles or that desire.

Later in the year he began teaching vertebrate anatomy in the

course of biology for the premedical students. This gave him pleasure and he was always enthusiastic when instructing students. Consequently my sympathy and my help were with him in his desire to get out of routine office work into teaching and planning and later to finish his course in medicine. Late in June he was relieved of the duties of Director-General and appointed "Inspector-General of Education." The duties of this position were purposely indefinite. The appointment gave him the privilege of inspection and directing attention to any thing in the Ministry, but the position was temporary and personal in that there was to be no successor when he left. The purpose was to relieve him of routine work and give to him a broad, advisory type of influence.

During the early part of this year (1924) the erection of a building for the departments of Anatomy and Physiology of the medical school, the cost of which was to be borne by the Foundation, was in order. At the suggestion of His Royal Highness it was decided that the Ministry control the erection of the building, instead of having this done by outside architects and their contractors. To this end a building committee was formed, to look after the numerous details of this work. In the meetings and privately His Royal Highness was insistent that the buildings for the school and hospital be without unnecessary architectural decoration, just plain workshops and homes for sick people without lattice and grill and carving and ornaments that are expensive and not useful. This was a deprivation to the architect, because to all architects appearance is an important feature of buildings, but Prince Mahidol was careful to see that the "gingerbread" decorations, as he called them, were left out. At all times he was just as careful to save money on this building and erect it at a minimum cost as if the expense were to be his own, perhaps even more careful.

A matter that caused a great deal of concern and planning during the latter part of 1924 was the reorganization of the hospital and medical school administration, made necessary by undesirable conditions that had developed. A thorough study of the situation was made by a committee from the Ministry and a change in the Dean's office, with school and hospital activities under one head, was indicated. After extended discussion of the problem, with H. R. H.

Prince Rangsit rendering sterling service as an invited member of the board of strategy, a dean was appointed on the basis of his being advised and supported by Prince Mahidol. His Royal Highness devised a scheme for the management when the change was made effective on April 1, 1925, for a period of two years.

That scheme provided a governing Council, made up of the faculty of the medical school and the nursing staff, of which His Royal Highness was persuaded to act as chairman; meetings were held twice monthly. In addition there was an executive committee of three (His Royal Highness, the Dean, and the Director of Studies) to put into effect the recommendations of the Council. When this management went into effect it included the appointment of H. S. H. Princess Chandara Nibha as Lady Superintendent of the school of Midwifery and Nursing. Prince Mahidol had earlier requested Her Serene Highness to help the school by accepting such a position, another instance of his foresight in meeting conditions and in selecting the right person for the place. He wished particular attention paid to the living conditions of the nurses. He always held that the teaching of morals and in general the right methods of living to the nurses was as valuable as the regular course in nursing technic itself.

It soon became apparent that the Council was just the right thing to meet the conditions existing at that time. With many high-tension situations arising in the institution during this stormy period of transition, the Council on many occasions proved to be the salvation of the management. Unfortunately His Royal Highness left for Europe about three months after the inauguration of the scheme but it was continued for the assigned period of two years. As expected, developing conditions made it advisable at the end of that period that the Council be superseded by the separate bodies of the Faculty of Medicine and the Hospital Staff, but for the period of transition for which the Council was devised, nothing could have better answered the purpose. No other one act of wisdom on the part of Prince Mahidol accomplished more for the general good of the institution at Siriraj than did this one.

In January of 1925 occurred another episode in the medical activities of His Royal Highness when he went to Chiangmai to dedi-

cate the new McCormick hospital of the American Presbyterian Mission. When the invitation came he was in a quandary about its acceptance, owing to his keen recognition of the eternal fitness of things. If he went officially, there would be more expense for the government in the way of receptions and the like than he wished to incur. If he went incognito there would be criticism and the feelings of the people would be hurt. Again note his idea that money should be saved for permanently useful things but also the fact that the feelings of the people and the government officials were to be respected; he finally decided that he must go officially.

While at Chiangmai he opened the new McCormick hospital for the missionaries and also presided at the dedication of the new municipal hospital and at the opening of a Red Cross health center. While on this trip he offered to support two graduates of the reorganized medical school each year as house officers at the McCormick hospital, if that institution would furnish living quarters for them. He also saw conditions that led him to offer to support for three years a foreign physician to help in the work of the hospital. That physician later came on duty but the arrangement for house officers has not been put into effect.

The visiting Professor of Physiology at the medical school at that time wished to carry out observations on monkeys. Proper quarters for these animals were not then available in the school compound and it was considered doubtful if they should be housed at that place. Prince Mahidol offered to keep them in his own compound and built enclosures there for them. Some of the details leading up to this were not very pleasing but all things were overlooked in his desire to help in research work and to aid the visiting teachers.

The subject of the training of nurses at Siriraj hospital came into prominence early in 1925. The question of obtaining two foreign nurses to help in reorganizing the school and in teaching was debated for some time, as there was opposition to it. His Royal Highness supported in the Council the resolution favoring this project and aided in its passage. When in the discussion the fact was cited that many graduate nurses leave this work to get married, he emphasized the great value of a nurse's course of training to those

who afterward become wives, as well as to those who stay in the profession.

Two problems arose concerning the scheme that was outlined for improving the nursing school. One was a suitable home for pupil and graduate nurses, the other was financing the proposed visiting nurses. Prince Mahidol brought the solution to both. He purchased the adjacent Wang Lang school from the Presbyterian Mission for Tcs. 50,000 and offered to rent it to the hospital, at a purely nominal sum, as a home for nurses. He later advanced some Tsc. 20,000 for repairs to the school buildings and the erection of a house for the Lady Superintendent. A maximum of Tcs. 6,200 per year was guaranteed for alterations and repairs and minor extensions. The second question, that of salary for the two visiting nurses, was met by his offer to finance both of these. These offers were made on May 31, 1925, though the Mission buildings could not be secured until April 1, 1926. Of course these offers were accepted by the Ministry and the nursing situation thereby changed from one of difficulty to one of accomplishment. Again had His Royal Highness by his generosity met and solved a problem dealing with the finances of the hospital.

All this strenuous dealing with many conflicting opinions as to buildings, personnel, the management of school and hospital, and the basic University problem that refused to be settled, told on the physical condition of Prince Mahidol and it came to be seen that he was not well. In fact before returning to Siam in 1923 he had been told by a physician in Europe that he had not more than two years to live (a most unwise statement for a physician to make and for a patient a dark cloud under which to continue). This must have had an effect on the morale of His Royal Highness but he kept right on with his work, without a murmur of complaint or fear or anxiety to those with whom he was working. That was courage of the highest type.

Early in April, 1925, he felt that his condition must be heeded and asked that certain physicians in Bangkok examine him and report on his condition. This was done and their report advised that he get away from the heat of the tropics to an American or European locality with climate better adapted to his condition. On June

24 he left for Europe, taking with him on a personal scholarship for postgraduate study abroad a newly-appointed member of the University staff in physics. As always he did not intend to rest all the time. He informed Dr. Pearce that he was to visit Europe and perhaps America to restore his health but "at the same time I hope to be able to look up some of our students and visit some medical schools and hospitals in Central Europe."

This period (1924-25) of nearly two years in Bangkok was the most active and perhaps the most difficult one in the efforts of His Royal Highness to advance the medicine and nursing of his country. It led to far-reaching strides in that development but these advances were accompanied and made difficult by many periods of disappointment and discouragement. Unfortunately for his own peace of mind Prince Mahidol was not what we call a good "fighter." That is, he did not follow up the principles and lines of action he felt were right by a vigorous or aggressive attitude toward the views and actions of other people; he was too responsive to their comment and opposition, too sensitive to their personal remarks, too much of a gentleman as it were. Hence instead of going home after a day of discussion and disagreement as to policies and forgetting the personal side of these differences, he would brood over the situation and take to heart the remarks that had been made in or outside of meetings. As an illustration, he heard, at a time when we were discussing plans for school and hospital buildings, a remark of one of the doctors that the opinions of His Royal Highness were not to be taken seriously because he was not a physician. As a matter of fact he had studied the question of hospital buildings more thoroughly than had any member of the staff of physicians. But the remark hurt him and he remembered it. It even served as an added incentive to his desire to complete his medical course and obtain the degree, so that he could meet the physicians of the hospital on common grounds of professional education.

For the medical school and hospital this period had been one of advancement. The method of erecting the new buildings had been chosen and the laboratories of anatomy and physiology were under way. The administration of school and hospital had been put on a sound basis. A home for nurses had been secured and a program

for visiting nurses made possible. A Lady Superintendent of nurses had, in addition to many needed reforms in the school, brought the number of entrance applications from thirty up to seventy-five. For all of these His Royal Highness had been partly or entirely responsible. In spite of his physical condition and the many difficulties of the work, he had gone ahead and brought about improvements of the greatest value. Such accomplishments merited highest admiration.

During this period Prince Mahidol was in close touch with the Department of Public Health and in December, 1924, gave it definite assistance in teaching. This was in connection with the conference of Circle Health Officers held in Bangkok at the call of the Director-General of the Department. His Royal Highness lectured to these officers and also gave practical demonstrations on various sanitary features of Bangkok. One of those lectures on "Practical Sanitation" was expanded by His Royal Highness into an article that was later published in the Health Bulletin of the Department of Public Health.

In November of 1925 he wrote me from Germany that he had consulted a physician who concluded that the action of his kidneys was due more to general weakness of constitution and nervousness than to changes in the organs themselves. "On the whole Dr. —'s prognosis is quite favorable. He recommends me to recognize my constitutional weakness which cannot probably be changed but to which one could adjust one's life in such a way that over-exertion, physical and mental, could be avoided. On being asked whether he would think that I could undertake to study medicine for two years more, his answer was in the affirmative. My own plan is still quite unsettled. I had expected a better result of my treatment. As it is I am rather in doubt as to the advisability of taking up further studies. I feel, however, that it is most desirable for me to get a medical qualification, should I resume my connection again with the medical school. I felt myself severely handicapped during the two years I was out there." He then had in mind the question of entering Harvard University for the final two years of the medical course, as he felt that the climate of England was not suitable for himself or his family. He had previously found that Scotland was still more unsuitable.

## CHAPTER IV

## THE YEARS 1926-1927 (B. E. 2469-2470)

Prince Mahidol arrived in Bangkok on February 16, 1926, to attend the coronation ceremonies of His Majesty King Prajadhipok. His stay in Siam was a short one. At that time he had in mind the obtaining of land to the north of Siriraj hospital compound. On this he planned to erect dormitories for the students of medicine, renting the buildings to the Ministry for a nominal sum as in the case of the nurses' home. The land was to be of sufficient extent to accommodate athletic grounds for the students. For some reason, presumably because the land could not then be obtained, this promising plan was not brought to completion.

During this short stay at home, His Royal Highness was very much interested in public health work. When the question of a place for some of his returning private students arose, he was undecided as to their going to the medical school or to the Department of Public Health. Both needed men and he was greatly interested in the advance of both activities. When it came to final settlement, the student himself was usually allowed to decide.

Some doubt or technical difficulty had arisen as to the building for Siriraj hospital that was to have been presented by His Majesty the late King Rama VI. This was taken up by Prince Mahidol and when he left for Europe on May 5 he said the building was assured. This later took the form of the Prince Asdang memorial building for medical patients.

In December of 1926 Prince Mahidol wrote me from America regarding several matters in connection with the medical school and hospital. He had shortly before had a conference in New York with officials of the Foundation concerning the nursing school. In connection with the latter he said in part: "As to what will happen after the Foundation will have withdrawn their interest, will depend upon the type of institution they have developed and upon the qualities, professional and moral, of the persons who have succeeded the representatives of the Rockefeller Foundation in the management of the school. I have, however, every confidence that in the five or more years of co-operation the Foundation and their repre-

sentatives would be able to create, permanently, an institution which I would be able to consider myself honoured to have the privilege of supporting, and that my choice of investing a considerable part of my capital and devoting time and energy to this particular school would be vindicated." This was putting the success of the school squarely up to both parties in the program. It further emphasized the fact that personal character always stood high in his estimate of one's fitness for a position.

Regarding his own work he said: "I am now very busy doing the third-year work at the Harvard Medical School with the hope of graduating in June, 1928. In the meantime I am also able to carry out some bacteriological and clinical work at the Children's Hospital in connection with diarrheal disease of children which I think might prove useful to Siam. After graduation I intend to take up special work in children's diseases for at least six months or a year. My health is excellent and the Medical School authorities are giving a very thorough supervision and examination of my physical condition." He had often spoken of the need here for instruction of mothers in the care of infants and small children, especially as regards their feeding. If he had ever taken up the actual practice of medicine, which he himself recognized as a rather remote probability, his work would have been the diseases of children.

Visitors to the residence of Prince and Madam Mahidol in Brookline, during this period of study at Harvard, found a happy and most industrious family. Siamese students in America received a cordial welcome at all times; it was truly an open house for them. His Royal Highness found relaxation from his studies by helping care for and train their children. They were buying fairly inexpensive clothes and otherwise saving in order that they might have more money to spend on scholarships for the education of young Siamese men and women. They felt they had no right to spend money simply for display. Some of his countrymen in America regarded all this as somewhat beneath the dignity of His Royal Highness, but at Harvard he was a student of medicine, not a Prince. His card read "Mr. Mahidol Songkla." While in a democratic country he was democratic, an attitude which we regarded as a real compliment to our country and one entirely worthy of a

Royal Prince. In his projects of education and gifts his wife was not only a willing and most efficient helper; she was also an originator. Their residence and study abroad did not for a moment lessen the concern of these two for the welfare of their countrymen.

In September of 1927 Prince Mahidol wrote that he endorsed the project (which had been considered by the Ministry and the Foundation) of obtaining a third visiting nurse as instructor in midwifery. The salary would be met by him as in the case of the two already here.

During this time Prince Mahidol was putting more energy into his studies than he himself recognized and his health was a matter of concern to the faculty. In November, 1927, in reply to an inquiry from His Royal Highness regarding work after his graduation in 1928, Dr. Pearce advised him to consult his physician in Boston before deciding on any plan. Dr. Pearce was frankly concerned about his health in view of the work he had been doing during the previous year, and, in connection with his projected post-graduate work, reminded him that obtaining his degree was after all the main object he had desired. Therefore he suggested that after receiving it His Royal Highness should adopt a course of action that would best conserve his health and strength. These points are mentioned to show that further study and better preparation were the dominating desires of this student of medicine. They even took precedence of his knowledge that his physical strength had a limit.

During this year the administration building at Siriraj hospital was completed and occupied. Besides administrative offices for the medical school and hospital it contains the outpatient department, the dispensary, library and reading rooms, record rooms for hospital histories, and an assembly room. The cost of this building was very close to Tcs. 200,000, of which half was contributed by Prince Mahidol. Therefore this building represents a further gift by him of approximately Tcs. 100,000.

In December, His Highness the Minister of Public Instruction received from His Royal Highness an inquiry as to serving for a year as house officer in Siriraj hospital when he returned after graduation. We agreed that there was no technical difficulty in

this, and that, in addition to giving him the opportunity he so greatly desired, there were several needed features about our service that would be begun or improved if he came in this capacity. Later it was decided to ask him to serve as Chief Resident House Officer, which would bring him in touch with every division of the hospital and with patients having all types of disease that are treated there.

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CHAPTER V

THE YEARS 1928-1929 (B. E. 2471-2472)

The greater part of the year 1928 was occupied by Prince Mahidol in personal rather than public affairs. As a part of special pediatric work at Harvard, he presented a well-written report of two cases of fish tapeworm in children, the first to be reported in Massachusetts. A part of this report, presented in conjunction with another writer, afterward appeared as an article in a medical journal.

In June he received the degree of M. D. (Doctor of Medicine) *cum laude* from Harvard University. This marked the high point in his personal aspirations for a knowledge of medicine. For this and his Certificate of Public Health (C. P. H.) he had spent six years at Harvard, one in premedical and five in medical courses. The last year of the six was completed under difficulties. About the middle of it there developed a lighting up of the old kidney trouble, during which there were grave doubts in the minds of his physicians as to his recovery. Fortunately the condition improved. Then just before the time for the final examinations he developed symptoms which led to the diagnosis of appendicitis. Because of this, the authorities of the school offered to waive his regular examinations and give him special privileges. This offer he declined and took all of the examinations with his classmates. After the examinations were finished with honor he underwent operation for removal of the appendix. Although performed under spinal anesthesia, in order to avoid the effect of a general anesthetic, this was a severe ordeal for him at the close of a hard year's work and for one in his general physical condition.

The condition of his health did not permit the postgraduate work in children's diseases that he had planned. Instead he went to the Continent to recuperate before returning to Siam. True to his habits, he did not spend all of his time recuperating. Part of it was taken in visiting his students and for various medical excursions. He overlooked nothing; he even sent a list of medical journals he was taking and others he thought of starting but wished checked off against the ones taken by Siriraj and the Pasteur Institute so he would not duplicate them.

In the latter part of the year (1928), His Royal Highness returned to Siam, reaching Singapore December 3, and Bangkok on December 13. When he disembarked at Singapore he appeared tired and worn out, but a few days on shore improved him greatly and in general he appeared stronger than we had expected. He had a very definite knowledge of his physical condition, because all possible tests had been made at Harvard and he knew the results. While he was in good general health his kidneys would function satisfactorily but if he caught cold or had an attack of influenza of similar upset, the effect would be felt at once. These things he discussed with me in his usual frank way, without attempting to minimize them. But he was not openly worried and, so far as one could judge, was resigned to the fact that he needed to order his activities in such a manner that he live at the level of damaged organs.

At that particular time he was not specially concerned with the financial affairs of the medical school and hospital, but he was keenly interested in the work that was being done by them. He had many helpful and stimulating ideas for students and graduates of medicine in his country. These he was asked to embody in a statement that could be published for the effect of its influence upon the school. To this he would not consent because he had been away from Siam for some time and felt out of touch with local medical conditions at the moment. Instead he gave the following statement regarding his work and his ideas of the duty of himself and others. It states so well his creed of service that it is worthy of preservation.

"I intend to take up permanent residence in Siam. All rumors and speculations regarding the position I am to occupy or the work

I am to do, from whatever source they may come, are entirely without foundation. I have not been offered any position, either by the Government or a private institution. My own plans are indefinite.

“ My service shall, of course, be first of all at the disposal of His Majesty the King.

“ At the same time I hope to be able to keep up my interest in things medical and in public health, and under the expert guidance of local authorities, I hope to gain some practical experience of Siamese conditions and perhaps make use of some of the knowledge which I have gathered during the course of my studies abroad.

“ Regarding government service, I hope that I may be given only such work for which I am qualified both by training and temperament and that whatever task I am given I shall receive adequate financial support and popular co-operation, so as to make my undertaking really effective.

“ My conception of loyalty to His Majesty forbids me merely to occupy a government post as its ornament and draw my pay regularly for so doing. In such case I feel that it would be better for me to vacate my position in favor of a deserving official who is more urgently in need of a government salary.

“ Having recently submitted myself to a serious operation, the state of my health is still such that I will have to take up my social duties very gradually. I do not, therefore, expect to be very active socially during this coming season.”

The few months of activity of His Royal Highness during 1929 were as usual along varied lines of medical interest. The outstanding one was that of personal scholarships. He set about increasing the number of these to ten. They were to be in medicine, public health, nursing, or premedical science subjects. Extracts from the information furnished prospective applicants indicate the views of Prince Mahidol regarding qualifications.

“ It is not essential that the candidates be brilliant scholars or show high records; such distinctions would, of course, be counted in their favor but candidates must show special interest and aptitude for the specialty they propose to take up. Candidates must show evidence of having had sufficient preparation, which can be obtained

in Siam, for the special studies which they wish to undertake. Linguistic ability will also be considered in addition to other qualifications. In general the candidates must have exhausted all the opportunities of training in Siam before they will be sent abroad. In general, evidence of good health and perfect conduct and professional devotion would be required. Prospects of stable employment after the period of studies will be considered to be one of the favorable points. Applications for scholarships in Siam are also considered on the same general principles but more liberally." From the applicants thus obtained, two graduates in medicine and one in nursing were sent to America and England, many others remaining on the waiting list.

In January of 1929 Prince Mahidol joined the Medical Association of Siam and gave a general address at the annual meeting, there not being time to prepare a medical article. He stated that the study of medicine had brought him both interest and pleasure but his real motive in taking the course was to make himself useful to mankind. He spoke of the vast field open to medical development in Siam and said that research should be one of the first efforts. The conditions of disease here should be investigated. He found in medical books little or no reference to Siam because statistics from here have not been published or even obtained. This regard for research work was again emphasized in a letter of February 25, accompanying reprints of an investigative article by one of his students in Switzerland. The letter closes: "There is no need to repeat once more how glad I am that our fellows are doing this sort of work."

Later His Royal Highness was the first to sponsor definite research work in Siam. His letter to me as Dean, offering two fellowships for this purpose during B. E. 2472, gives such sound reasons therefor, is so clear and so fair, and is in every way so typical of the man that it merits inclusion here in full.

March 11th, 1929.

Dear Dr. Ellis,

The completion of the prescribed medical course does not imply that the student has acquired all that can be learned

of Medicine. On the contrary graduation only marks a step in the progress of medical education: namely, the fact that the student has completed his theoretical training and is now considered fit to take further responsibilities of practical and independent courses of studies of all that is connected with the problem of ill-health. It is a continuation of his medical studies in a slightly different form. Unless the new graduate realizes that he must remain a student all through his career in medicine he will not become a progressive physician.

Under such circumstances, I believe that the young medical graduate ought to be given the privilege to begin his career, after all only a new phase of education, under the supervision and guidance of more experienced men in a position of a house officer or laboratory worker for at least one year, until he has acquired sufficient self-confidence and the sense of responsibility to begin his work independently.

Unfortunately facilities for internships are limited. Therefore the present fellowships are offered to those of the graduating class of this year who have not secured such an internship, in order to still give them opportunities of practical training under supervision of experts in certain special fields of Medicine.

These offers are frankly experimental and will be tendered in this form only for one year. In the course of time it is hoped that we might learn to judge whether this type of fellowship would answer the needs of our school or not. Of course modifications would then be introduced so as to achieve the greatest usefulness to the problem of medical education in Siam.

For the present TWO FELLOWSHIPS are herewith offered under following conditions.

- (1) The name of these fellowships is to be: "SIRIRAJ HOSPITAL RESEARCH AND TEACHING FELLOWSHIP."
- (2) The purpose of these fellowships is to give the holders further practical training in some phase of Medicine with a view of preparing them to undertake further independent research and to enable them to

acquire the right kind of self-confidence necessary for professional work, and to fully realize the great responsibility of their high mission and to increase their interest and understanding of the problem of ill-health and finally to awaken the desire to teach and share such knowledge as would lead to better appreciation of the value of sound body and mind among the Siamese people.

- (3) Each fellowship consists of a monthly salary of ONE HUNDRED BAHTS beginning with the month of April and ending with the month of March, 2472.

At the end of the year, if the holder has done satisfactory work and produced satisfactory evidence of this work in the form of a thesis embodying the result of his studies, at the recommendation of the Faculty of Medicine of the University, a bonus of SEVEN HUNDRED AND TWENTY BAHTS will be granted.

- (4) This fellowship does not include free board or lodging at the Hospital for the holder. Lodging, however, may be given by arrangement with the hospital authorities.
- (5) The Faculty are however herewith requested to give the holder the standing of a member of the instructing staff in return for his services as assistant in the operation of the Hospital, School and teaching routine in addition to the holder's special problem.
- (6) The Faculty are herewith given the power to determine the nature and scope of these two fellowships and to select the candidates from among the graduating class of this year who have entered their applications and to assign them to such Departments as are considered most needing of assistants and most capable of handling such problems. They also are requested to direct and supervise the work of the fellows and to judge the degree of their success. Finally they are also given the right to decide

whether or not to award the above mentioned bonus as a mark of their special appreciation.

- (7) In case one or both of the candidates show exceptional ability fellowships abroad might be granted later.
- (8) The production of a THESIS based upon original, independent work with complete reference bibliography of the subject is required of each candidate as an essential feature of the work. The quality of this thesis is to be considered as one of the deciding factors whether to grant the bonus or not.
- (9) The cost of research is to be borne partly by the Department the holder is assigned to and partly by the holder himself, as agreed upon between the candidate and the chief of the Department unless special funds may be made available from other sources.
- (10) Of course the candidate must be a person of good moral character, interested in his work and of sound mental and physical health.

Applications for these fellowships are herewith invited. The selection must be made in time for an official request for the postponement of military service to be effected.

Yours very sincerely,

(signed) MAHIDOL SONGKLA.

Needless to say, the Faculty most gladly accepted this generous offer and selected two of the graduates of B. E. 2471 for the fellowships. They worked diligently, one in the Department of Pathology, the other in the Department of Medicine. One of them in the course of his work studied the bacteria from the intestine of a very sick baby in the hospital, finding among others a very rare species (just the type of work followed by His Royal Highness during his senior year at Harvard). On these findings was based treatment that undoubtedly saved the baby's life. On the child's next birthday, soon after its recovery, the grateful father sent the hospital a check for Ticals 500.

One of these fellowships has been extended by a University fund

and the entire period gave rise to several reports of investigations, two of which were presented by the holder at the Congress of the Far Eastern Association of Tropical Medicine, held at Bangkok in December, 1930. It is greatly desired that endowments be secured to perpetuate at least one of these fellowships as a memorial to H. R. H. Prince Mahidol. No more appropriate or fitting tribute to this benefactor could be made.

The first paragraph of the preceding quoted letter brings out a point that His Royal Highness considered of great importance, namely, that a physician after he graduates must still at heart remain a student. This fact with a slightly different application was also emphasized on his return from abroad. The additional feature was that a student who takes his course in medicine abroad in a temperate zone and studies the diseases of that climate, needs to continue his studies on his return to the tropical climate of Siam for at least a year before he can consider himself acquainted with the diseases and conditions here. That was the basis of his intense desire to serve as house officer in Siriraj hospital. This he had written about long before returning from abroad. But it soon became apparent that the details of such an arrangement were too many and that this service could not be taken. This was a keen disappointment to him and also to the staff of the hospital. His presence there would have been a most valuable stimulus to the whole medical and nursing staff.

Then there came to him the thought that a similar service might be arranged at the McCormick hospital in Chiangmai. The authorities there were very eager to have him come. Therefore when I asked him to deliver a series of lectures on Child Welfare in our public health course, he had to decline because he would be away from Bangkok.

At this time the Department of Public Health was considering plans for the enlargement of the Vajira hospital. At the request of the Director-General, His Royal Highness suggested changes amounting essentially to a new plan for the additions.

Before going North, Prince Mahidol several times mentioned the co-operation of the Rockefeller Foundation and the possibility of it continuing after the then existing contracts with visiting teachers

expired. For such continuation he was very desirous. He felt that each succeeding class of graduates from the school of medicine under the circumstances of the co-operation, would more firmly impress upon the people of his country the value of a school maintaining a high standard of training. Such standard he had consistently advocated from the beginning and therefore he had no sympathy with the idea of some that the school should turn out several grades of practitioners. Because this idea had been advanced repeatedly since reorganization of the school began, His Royal Highness feared that when co-operation ended, efforts would be made to bring about changes that would result in lowering the standard worked out during that period. This could come by admitting some students of say the sixth or eighth Madhayom, without college training in the sciences, and then graduating them (with certificates) after various periods of medical study of less than four years. This fear he had stated many times during the preceding several years and was particularly oppressed by it after his return from Europe in 1928.

His Royal Highness was at this time interested in a proposed new dormitory for medical students and just before he left for the North in April, said he would present to the school as a site for this a certain property on the river front near Siriraj hospital. He very much desired that adjoining property be obtained and added to his own for the purpose of the building and was willing to help the government financially in securing it. The sequel to this affair is that after His Royal Highness passed on, it was found that the property he had offered to present really belonged to his sister, H. R. H. Princess Valaya. When this was ascertained, Her Royal Highness at once presented the land to the school, a very gracious and greatly appreciated act. On this land was erected a three-story dormitory for 100 students that was first occupied in 1931 (B. E. 2474).

On April 24, 1929, His Royal Highness left for Chiangmai. There he went on service in the McCormick hospital, thus beginning his much desired study of tropical medicine as found in the diseases of his own people. His generosity was again shown by his contribution of \$3,000 gold to the fund for an X-ray apparatus

for the hospital. But he was not destined to continue this study for very long. On May 18 he returned to Bangkok, coming at once to Siriraj hospital to present a specimen he had brought down and also to ask for surgical advice. He very evidently was ill. In a few days he was confined to his home under treatment and did not thereafter leave it.

His further illness of four months was marked by a series of improvements and relapses that alternately raised and lowered the hopes of his family and his physicians and his friends. He himself felt periods of encouragement but these were interspersed by days of terrific depression. Both he and his physicians knew that the anemia was progressing and that each week of the local disease lowered his general condition and made recovery less possible.

But through all this he would talk by the hour of medical affairs; of the past in the way of his students days, of the future and its work when he would again be well. The few times that I saw him he would talk only of affairs of the hospital and school, as in the days when he was active. He was then arranging to send a nurse to America on scholarship and it was only when physical weakness forced him that he turned the details over to me.

The last time I saw Prince Mahidol, in August, I was able to report the strong probability that the Foundation would contribute to another building program that included extension of our pathology building and a new building for the school of nursing. This greatly pleased him and he at once said he would add to the proposed amount in order to make the building for the nurses a satisfactory one. When I stated the assurance of the architect that the amount named was quite ample, he said, "Then I will donate the ground." And this he did.

Thus our last conversation was on the subject that had been the chief or only one of every talk we had during the nine years of our planning and work together. Prince Mahidol would talk of nothing else—education, medical education, nursing education, public health, child welfare—these things he studied, he worked for, he actually lived. And so they were with him until he left them and us and on September 24, 1929, began the great adventure into the land of the beyond.

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## CHAPTER VI

## SUMMARY

The foregoing pages have given briefly the various activities in medicine followed by His Royal Highness Prince Mahidol. They included medical education, nursing education, public health, and medical research. In all these phases he rendered sterling service to medicine in Siam. This service was particularly valuable because of the time at which it was given. That time was one of transition in the medical school from an institution lacking in buildings, equipment, and trained teachers toward one possessing all three of these requirements. The same can be said of the school of midwifery and nursing. Moreover it was the first part of a transition which is not yet completed and of which the early years are by far the most difficult. Pioneers in such undertakings deserve the major part of the credit if the projects succeed, for to whatever heights they may later rise the foundation has first to come.

Prince Mahidol contributed land and buildings and also helped in the training of men and women for teachers. Financial contributions included Ticals 200,000 for University scholarships in the medical and premedical sciences; Ticals 180,000 for medical school and hospital buildings; Ticals 75,000 for a nurses' home; Ticals 25,000 as salaries of visiting nurses; Ticals 3,840 for inaugurating postgraduate research; Ticals 16,000 for support of a physician at McCormick hospital, Chiangmai, and Ticals 6,750 to the X-ray fund of that institution. In addition to these public benefactions, his private scholarships in medicine and nursing and the premedical sciences must have amounted to several hundred thousand ticals. It would seem that three-quarters of a million ticals is a very conservative estimate of the amount directly or indirectly contributed by His Royal Highness to the advance of medicine in Siam while he was living. And in his will he bequeathed Ticals 500,000 as an endowment for scholarships in medicine and nursing and their contributory sciences.

His personal influence is difficult to summarize. In connection with medical and nursing education, the buildings, the administration, the support of basic principles, the insistence on proper stand-

ards, the moral support of numerous side projects, his personal example of studying medicine, his part in securing the aid of the Foundation—all these things cannot be combined into a concrete statement of valuation. Nor can his advice and assistance to the Department of Public Health. For the last ten years of his life he was easily the outstanding figure in the medical advancement of his own country. To the faculty of the medical school and the medical and nursing staff of Siriraj hospital his passing came as a staggering blow. By every member the loss is felt as a personal one, as well as scientific and institutional. We lament the passing of one who for years was a staunch supporter of the institution and of medical and nursing progress in the broadest sense of the word. Prince Mahidol stood four-square for the highest and best in personal and professional conduct. To him medicine and nursing meant the thorough preparation of upright men and women and then a life of service. The support of such a man, irrespective of his monetary gifts, is of tremendous value to an institution. So ours has suffered an irreparable loss.

The real value of the achievements of Prince Mahidol will become more apparent as the years pass by. But we can say, even now, that for this interest in medicine his people owe him an eternal debt of gratitude. And no greater memorial can they give, and in no way can they more surely please him could he but know, than to carry on with the work which he so generously helped begin. The advancement of medicine and the lessening of disease among his people he chose for his life work and was called away with the task only well begun. As a token of loyalty to his efforts and the carrying out of his highest wishes this work must continue. There can be no faltering in the program he helped inaugurate.

Recently His Majesty the King has dedicated, as a memorial from the family and the friends of Prince Mahidol, a building for private patients that will be a permanent addition to the facilities of Siriraj hospital for taking care of the sick. The hospital accepts this gift with thankfulness and humility. May the service rendered therein be always tinged with the graciousness of him to whose memory it has been erected; his work is finished but his good deeds live after him.

And so there ended at an early age a life that the holder had used to the full in acquiring knowledge for self and in multiple acts of benefit for others. These things made it a life unusually well lived. And the future was still more full of promise. The early death of such a man is to us poor mortals most saddening and untimely. But we have as heritage what that life accomplished and the memory of one whose personality was an inspiration to all with whom he came in contact.

“ And so our great men come and go. Hail and farewell! ”