

Bibliotek for Læger

A journal devoted to medical history, ethics, philosophy and clinical theory, founded in 1809

Peter Frederiksen:

»Jutlandia« in the Korean War.

Bibl Læger 2007;199:216–59.

Based on a substantial empirical material, the article describes the background for (and daily activities onboard) the Danish hospital ship »Jutlandia« during the Korean War 1950–1953.

Niels H. Secher:

National Medical Center in Seoul, South Korea – recollections from its first years.

Bibl Læger 2007;199:260–83.

National Medical Centre (NMC) in Seoul, South Korea, was opened October 2nd 1958 as a joint venture between the Korean government, the three Scandinavian countries, and UN in order to promote medical education. The Scandinavian engagement in Korea was a continuation of the UN war effort including two lacerates and a hospital ship. During the first 10 years (in which the Scandinavian countries had responsibility for the hospital), 370 Scandinavian doctors and nurses worked at the NMC. A 450-bed hospital was established, and this has been expanded to 735 beds, and NMC has also been managing a tuberculosis station south of Seoul. Over ten years 73 doctors had completed their clinical training, and the hospital has been incorporated in the South Korean medical education.

From the perspective of participating as a boy in the opening of NMC, the article describes the initial problems together with the experience of living with other Scandinavians in a developing country in relative isolation from the Korean society. Today, a Korean-Scandinavian Foundation is established, and several Korean Doctors and nurses visit the Scandinavian countries each year. Some Scandinavian doctors also come to NMC. It is the hope that this mutual medical exchange is maintained, if a new NMC is established North-East of its present premises.

John Christiansen:

The English sweating sickness and the reformation.

Bibl Læger 2007;199:284–95.

In chronicles as well as in recent literature, it has repeatedly been postulated that the epidemic of the English sweating sickness on the European continent in 1529 caused the premature adjournment of the colloquy between Martin Luther and Huldreich Zwingli and their adherents on the Eucharist in October in Marburg, and in this way markedly influenced the course of European history. It was Landgrave Phillip of Hessen who had arranged the conference in order to settle the differences between the two reformers mainly on the Eucharist. According to some sources, the conference was planned to last 8 days from the 1st of October, but it lasted only from the 1st to the 4th of October, since it was adjourned before the two reformers had reached an agreement due to fear of the sweating sickness.

A critical analysis of the sources, especially the contemporary ones, finds no support for the view that the Marburg conference was adjourned due to fear of the English sweating sickness, rather it was terminated simply because Luther and Zwingli could not reach an agreement on the interpretation of the Eucharist.

Folke Rasmussen:

Penicillin for veterinary use in Denmark during World War II.

Bibl Læger 2007;199:296–307.

In the spring of 1943, professor K.A. Jensen found a fungus produc-

ing an antibacterial substance identified as penicillin. Penicillin was later produced in collaboration with Løvens kemiske Fabrik (LEO Pharma, Copenhagen). In November 1943, Professor K.A. Jensen, Professor Aage Jepsen and their co-workers planned experimental studies with the purpose of evaluating the usefulness of penicillin in the treatment of mastitis in cows. After the infusion of »home-made« crude penicillin in 340 glands infected with streptococcus, the authors found that between 80 and 90 percent of the treated glands were free from bacteria at the first re-examination 1–2 months after treatment.

In the first half of 1950s the clinical use of penicillin was suggested and described in several Danish papers. Various factors such as penicillin salts and formulation, protein binding and renal clearance influenced on the concentration of penicillin in blood. Side effects such as inhibitory effect on intestinal flora, diarrhoea, anaphylactic reactions and bacterial resistance against antibiotics were mentioned.

In the autumn of 1949, an increase in souring problems was seen in the production of cheese and butter. Several authors pointed to residues of penicillin as one of the responsible factors. The inhibitory effects of residues of penicillin in milk on starter cultures were demonstrated. The public health problems related to human contact with antibiotics in the environment and residues of antibiotics in dairy products and other animal products were stated.

According to the rules for the regulation of the veterinary use of antibiotics in Denmark (Ministry of Agriculture, July 26 1954) it was prohibited to deliver milk with residues of antibiotics to dairies and dairy industries. The Danish rules have regularly been updated according to the development of the use of veterinary drugs and the demands for the safety of animals and consumers. Since 1962, residues of antibiotics in milk were found in less than 0.1% of milk samples. In slaughter animals residues of antibiotics were found in less than 0.1% of samples from 1974 to 1998 and since that time in less than 0.04% of samples during the period up to 2004. This is very low in comparison to an average of 2.7% contaminated samples of pork meat in EU as such.