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Hills Physician Is Honored By Medical Society

W. G. Hutchinson, M.D., of Bloomfield Hills is among 16 Michigan physicians who will this year join medicine's famous "Pity Year Club". His years of service were honored last night at the meeting of the State Medical Society at Grand Rapids. There were 17 state physicians including one woman honored at this time.

Dr. Hutchinson, a native of Detroit, received his degree at the Detroit College of Medicine (Wayne University) in 1897. For several years after that he maintained a private practice which he left to accept a position as medical director for the Michigan Mutual Life insurance company. After the sale of the company in 1927, Dr. Hutchinson became associated with the American Life insurance company.

Since 1940 he has been on the medical board for the Michigan Crippled Children commission, with offices in Pontiac.

Dr. and Mrs. Hutchinson came to live in Birmingham in 1926 and a few years ago moved to Bloomfield Hills. He attended the association meeting Wednesday when the club ceremonies were held.

Each Tuesday at 5 p.m. is the deadline for news, society, classified and display ads.

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Old Age Assistance Law Liberalized by State Legislature During 1949

EDITORS NOTE: This is the third in a series of articles on laws which were passed at the 1949 session of the Michigan Legislature. They affect you and every resident of Michigan. The entire series is prepared as a public service of the State Bar of Michigan under the direction of Russell A. Searl, Lansing, Chairman of the State Bar Committee on Legislation and Law Reform. The articles are objective in nature and do not attempt to comment on the relative merits of the legislative enactments but rather to present the most important facts and alert you to the changes those laws represent as they become effective on September 22, 1949.

Today's high cost of living had a definite effect upon legislation adopted at the 1949 session. This was evidenced by the increase in the amount of assistance payable to recipients under the Old Age Assistance law and, also, by the increase in the salaries and fees payable to various officials.

Old Age Assistance Law
The 1949 legislature decided that the previous maximum limitation of \$50 per month upon the amount of assistance which an individual might be paid should be increased to \$60.

The legislature also provided for paying an \$80 per month maximum instead of \$60 during a period when an individual receiving old age assistance is also receiving temporary hospitalization or care in a convalescent home.

Disqualifications for receiving such assistance were also lightened under the former law the ownership of property, such as real estate, which had a value of \$5,000 or less did not disqualify the recipient from receiving the same.

Under the new law additions have been made to provide that the ownership of mortgages or bank contracts having, together with any real estate, a value of \$5,000 or less which were obtained by the sale of homesteads or farmsteads would not disqualify the individual owning them from receiving aid.

Considered As Income
However, in determining the amount of aid to which such a person is entitled, payments which the person might receive as either principal or interest upon any mortgages or contracts are considered as "income". The legislature was largely in agreement in regard to these amendments.

The main controversy in the legislature arose over the repeal of the so-called "payments" which is not an accurate name for this law, for the law does not give the state a lien upon the property of those who have received assistance.

If the state wishes to recover money from the estate for previous payments of assistance, it is merely authorized to file a claim against the estate of the deceased for "grants paid during the lifetime of the deceased".

Loss by Close Margin
Attempts to repeal this provision were beaten down by a relatively close margin and the

state welfare department is still authorized but not required to file such claim. The department takes the position that such individual case is judged upon its own merits as to the size of the estate and the needs of the person who received assistance.

While many recipients of old age assistance do not leave estates from which reimbursement can be received, nevertheless, money which can be recovered from other estates does total a substantial amount. This money goes to the general fund and in this way it is possible to give further grants to other deserving persons.

Salaries of State Officers
Salaries of circuit judges and of the director of conservation were increased in line with similar increases in the salaries of state officers at the special session of the legislature held last December. The adoption of the constitutional amendment at the general November 1948 election set for paying state officers any salary for the performance of their duties under that act. The exception to this is the salary paid the Lieutenant Governor.

When the act was originally enacted in 1921, it authorized payment of a salary to certain state officers who are members of the State Administrative Board as compensation for services as members. This was a mere subterfuge to get around the limitation placed upon salaries of state officials by the constitution.

Following the adoption of the constitutional amendment in 1948 authorizing the legislature to fix such salaries, use of the subterfuge was no longer necessary and was abandoned by this amendment.

Fees of County Officers
A number of bills were enacted increasing fees payable to county officials. These included fees payable to the clerk of the board of serving papers, to the county clerk for assumed name and notary public certificates, to the registrar of deeds for recording and filing commission papers, to circuit court judges for their work. Except where such fees are property of the officials, the increase in fees will add to receipts of the general fund of the county.

It is claimed that in most counties a larger general fund is needed to meet the high volume of present day expenses. The amount of money paid per day to witnesses and jurors in circuit courts was also increased.

Township Surplus Funds
In contrast with the financial condition of counties is that of most townships. In fact, various bills were introduced to authorize townships to use the surplus funds which they have in their treasury which came to them as a result of the sales tax diversion amendment. A large part of the townships in the state, as a result of that amendment, levy no township taxes and, in many cases, after paying the ordinary township expenses, have surplus funds available.

Two of the bills proposed were enacted.

One permitted the voters of the township to authorize the turning over of such surplus funds to the general fund of the county to be disbursed for purposes designated by the electors voting.

The other authorizes, upon vote of the electors of townships, the turning over of any such surplus funds to the general fund of the county to be disbursed for purposes designated by the electors voting.

The next article in the series will deal with the "One Man Grand Jury" law.

Among food supplies sent abroad by and through the American Red Cross during its foreign war relief operations were 382,000 pounds of condensed milk, 37,378 pounds of evaporated, 18,590 of malted, 448,000 of skimmed, and 1,352,749 of whole powdered. Total value of the milk was \$3,833,898.42



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