

**Honoring  
Earle G. Brown, M.D.**

*for his*

**THIRTY-FIVE YEARS OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE**



**K.P.H.A. BANQUET  
Wichita, Kansas  
March 30, 1954**

OK

## THE SAMUEL J. CRUMBINE AWARD

In 1946, Kansas' famous pioneer health officer, Dr. Samuel J. Crumbine, who now lives in Jackson Heights, Long Island, N.Y., was the honor guest at the annual banquet of the Kansas Public Health Association, in Wichita. His many friends and the Kansas press hailed Doctor Crumbine's visit to the Sunflower State, and it was a memorable occasion for the Association.

After that evening, the annual banquet was called the Samuel J. Crumbine Banquet. In 1947, Dr. Clarence H. Kinman was the special honor guest; in 1948, Dr. Charles H. Lerrigo was the honoree; Professor Earnest Boyce was honored in 1951, and in 1952, the Samuel J. Crumbine Award for meritorious service to public health was established, and was presented not only to that year's honor guest, Dr. E. V. McCollum, but to all past honorees; unfortunately, due to illness Doctor McCollum was unable to be present, and because of a conflicting engagement Professor Boyce also received his award *in absentia*. All other past honorees were present, including Doctor Crumbine, and received the Samuel J. Crumbine awards. Although candidates for the award are considered each year, it will be noted that the award is not necessarily made annually.



## HONORING DOCTOR BROWN

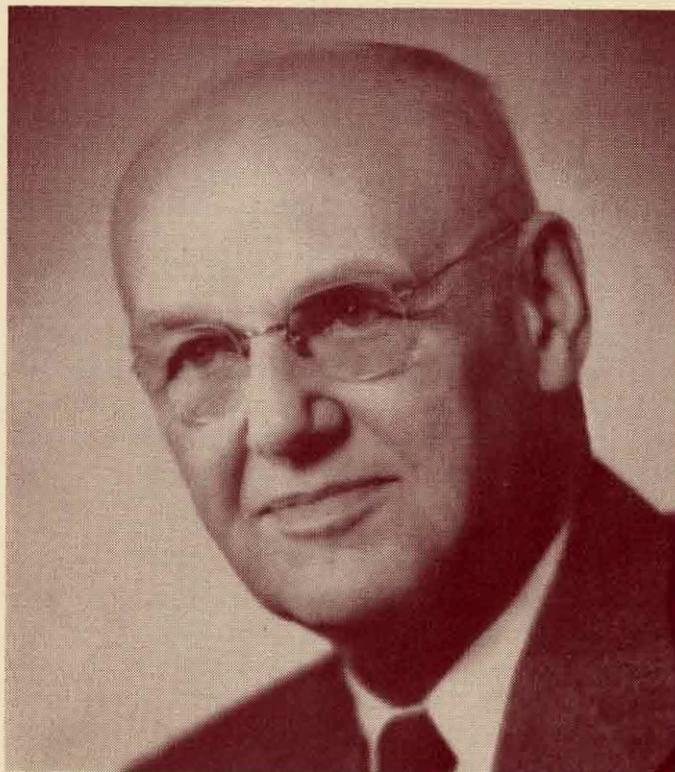
In recognition of his outstanding service to public health, the Kansas Public Health Association has chosen Earle G. Brown, M.D., as the 1954 recipient of

### *The Samuel J. Crumbine Award*

A native of Kansas, Doctor Brown has won distinction in the field of public health, not only in Kansas and in the east, but nationally. Many honors have been bestowed upon him for his progressive work during the thirty-five years he has served as a public health official. His friends and colleagues in the Kansas Public Health Association are proud to join in paying tribute to Doctor Brown.

Roberta E. Foote, R.N., President  
Thomas R. Hood, M.D., President-Elect  
Vernon D. Foltz, Vice-President  
Evelyn Ford, Secretary-Treasurer  
and  
The Executive Committee\*

\*In addition to the officers, the Executive Committee includes: Loretta Wilson, R.N., Roy N. Johnston, M. Leon Bauman, M.D., Hilda Lewis, R.N., Earl M. Strader, and Guy Salts.



EARLE G. BROWN, M.D.

## SON OF THE SUNFLOWER STATE

Earle G. Brown, M.D., was born December 16, 1887, at Thompsonville, Jefferson County, now R.F.D. No. 2, Perry, Kansas. After graduation from Topeka high school, in 1907, he took his permedical course at Baker University, Baldwin, Kansas, 1907-1909; was graduated from Northwestern University Medical School on June 11, 1913, Evanston, Ill., served his internship at Mercy Hospital, Chicago, after which he engaged in the practice of medicine in Topeka, from July, 1914 to September 15, 1917. He and the late Mrs. Brown, a charming woman and talented musician, had two children, Richard P., a Captain in the U. S. Army, now on duty in Japan, and Josephine, who has a responsible administrative position on the nursing staff of Presbyterian Hospital, New York City. Captain and Mrs. Brown have two little daughters, who are a great joy to their grandfather.

## ARMY SERVICE

In August, 1917, Doctor Brown was commissioned as a First Lieutenant in the Officers (Medical) Reserve Corps, and reported for duty with the Medical Detachment of the 157th Infantry Regiment, the Fortieth Division, at Ft. Logan, Colo., on September 22, 1917. After basic training at Camp Kearney, Calif., he was promoted to Captain in the Medical Corps, in June, 1918, served overseas, in France, from August, 1918, through March, 1919, and received his honorable discharge from the Army at Ft. Russell, Wyo., on April 30, 1919.

## PUBLIC HEALTH CAREER

On May 19, 1919, Doctor Brown was appointed City Health Officer of Topeka, and served in this position until May 31, 1925. On June 1, of that year he was appointed and assumed the duties of Secretary and Executive Officer of the Kansas State Board of Health. After 12 years of outstanding service as State Health Officer of Kansas, Doctor Brown resigned, on April 16, 1937, to become Health Officer and Director of Welfare of Arlington, Va., a large urban jurisdiction just outside of Washington, D.C., which duties he assumed on May 16, 1937.

He resigned from the Arlington County position on March 15, 1938, and the next day started work in his new appointment as Commissioner of Health of Nassau County, Long Island, N.Y. Doctor Brown's great administrative ability has been impressively demonstrated in this position, which called for initial organization of the full-time local health department, superseding a system of a part-time county health officer and 68 physician deputies serving as local health officers in as many villages of the county; each of these 68 communities had a board of health and a part-time health officer. Doctor Brown has developed one of the model full-time local health services in the nation during his years as Nassau County Commissioner of Health, a position which he still holds with distinction, having won the respect and co-operation of local professional societies, county government officials, voluntary health agencies, press and radio facilities, the people of the county, and the loyalty of a large and well-trained staff.

Doctor Brown is the author of more than thirty (30) published articles relating to public health.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF SERVICES AS KANSAS STATE HEALTH OFFICER

(1) Probably the outstanding activity of Doctor Brown's career as State Health Officer was his *pioneer study of fatal home accidents, in 1930, and issuance of an annual report on all types of accidental deaths in the State.* This was a study he, personally, made, setting up accident reporting forms and the annual report, which were considered as models by the National Safety Council and supplied the basis for planning such reporting on a national scale. The annual accidental death reports have been continued by succeeding State Health Officers in Kansas, and the State still holds a place of distinction in this activity; a number of other states, in the last few years, have written for information and samples of reporting forms to assist them in setting up such reports.

Doctor Brown used the accidental death data for safety education, giving talks throughout the State and in other states; he was instrumental in organizing the Kansas Safety Council, which later attained legal status.

(2) *Increased Financial Support and Extension of Services* resulted during Doctor Brown's tenure as State Health Officer, when greater appropriations were obtained from the State Legislature, and additional funds were obtained from voluntary and endowment groups, and from federal agencies. Doctor Brown formulated the Kansas Plan by which the department received federal funds under Title Six of the Social Security Act, for extension of public health services, and upon approval in 1936, he immediately put the plan into effect. This meant creation of the Dental Hygiene Division, and the Division of Tuberculosis Control, reactivation of the Venereal Disease Control Division, extension of Maternal and Child

Health services, employment of additional nurses, enlargement of all types of sanitation work, greatly increased laboratory services, the nutrition service was started, and the general health education program with a full-time director was established. There was a general upsurge in public health activity in the State, and a systematic plan was set up for special academic and postgraduate training of public health personnel in recognized colleges and universities having schools of public health. During Doctor Brown's administration, the Water and Sewage Division became the Division of Sanitation.

(3) Throughout his career in Kansas, Doctor Brown *promoted local health units* as the "best means of protecting the public health." In 1929, due to his leadership, the State Legislature enacted a law allowing county commissioners to levy one-half mill for direct expenditure for health services, making possible the establishment of additional local health units in Kansas.

(4) *Rules and Regulations Adopted* show that Doctor Brown worked well and harmoniously with the members of the Kansas State Board of Health, for a progressive public health program. Utilizing legal powers of the Board, new rules and regulations were passed and old ones amended, for the improvement of environmental sanitation, food and drug administration, communicable diseases control, and use of public health statistics. Swimming pools and camps first came under public health inspection under new standards, as did municipal and semi-public water supplies; steps were taken to prevent stream pollution from municipal and industrial wastes; the standard milk ordinance was practicably amended for early enforcement; proper sewage disposal was stressed; tularemia, undulant fever, and psitticosis became reportable; supervision

of child-caring homes was improved, as were other phases of a well-rounded public health program. *Great strides were made in the control of communicable diseases, notably diphtheria and typhoid fever.*

(5) *Health Education* activities characterized Doctor Brown's career as State Health Officer of Kansas; in 1927 he presented a paper on this subject at the meeting of the Iowa Public Health Association, and in his early years in public health he demonstrated his interest in the health education section of the American Public Health Association, serving the section, at times, as consultant. He had a flair for publicity and maintained good press relations, started the monthly NEWS LETTER for the special benefit of the 105 county health officers. In 1927, he began presentation of weekly radio scripts in Topeka, and in 1931 he began writing weekly radio scripts for station KFBI, then at Abilene and now a strong station at Wichita, which still uses state health department scripts regularly. Doctor Brown started the use of films and film strips for health education, and introduced graphs and charts, and pictures in the biennial reports. In 1935, he started the in-service training of a health educator, a regular health information service to weekly newspapers was begun, and all lines of public information were strengthened, as a prelude to the general health education program formally established in 1936.

For many years, Doctor Brown *lectured at hygiene classes at Washburn college, Topeka, and he served as Professor of Hygiene and Head of the Department of Preventive Medicine, University of Kansas School of Medicine from 1934-1937.*

Beginning in 1936, great emphasis was given to lay education in cancer and the venereal diseases, and tuberculosis education was strengthened.

## MEMBERSHIPS AND HONORS

Doctor Brown held memberships in the Shawnee County, Kansas, and American Medical Associations. He was elected Vice-president of the Kansas Medical Society in 1927, and upon the death of the President automatically became President, serving in that capacity the remaining nine months of the year; having served as President, he became a life member of the Kansas Medical Society. He was editor of the Journal of the Kansas Medical Society from 1932-1934.

In 1919, when he was serving his first year as Topeka City Health Officer, Doctor Brown became a member of the American Public Health Association; he was elected a Fellow in 1931; served as a member of the Governing Council 1936-1939; was elected Chairman of the Health Officers' Section in 1941, and in 1942 was elected and served five years as a member of the Health Officers' Section Council.

In 1936, while State Health Officer of Kansas, Doctor Brown served as Vice-president, and the following year as President of the Conference of State and Provincial Health Authorities of North America; when he resigned as Executive Secretary of the Kansas State Board of Health to become a local health officer, this organization made him an honorary life member.

Doctor Brown became a member of the Arlington County Virginia, and Virginia State Medical Societies in 1937-1938.

He has been a member of the Nassau County, N.Y., Medical Society, and the Medical Society of the State of New York from 1938 to date.

For the year 1941, Doctor Brown served as Chairman of the Conference of Metropolitan (N.Y.) Health Officers.

The Kansas Public Health Association made Doctor Brown

an honorary member in 1946, when the association had Dr. Samuel J. Crumbine, famous pioneer Health Officer of Kansas, as its honor guest at the annual banquet.

In 1949, he became a Diplomat of the American Board of Preventive Medicine and Public Health.

He received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science from Baker University, Baldwin, Kansas, June 6, 1949, "for his outstanding contribution to public health."

In December, 1953, Doctor Brown received the Arthur T. McCormack Award, an honor bestowed upon him by the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers, at its meeting in Washington, D.C. The following citation accompanied the award—"In recognition of twenty-five years of Meritorious Service in the Field of Public Health. His unselfish devotion to the ideals of Sound Public Health Practices and his Constructive Leadership have benefited the People of his State, the Nation, and this Association."

Other memberships include: Association of Military Surgeons; Mason—Scottish Rite and York Rite, Arab Shrine; Capitol Post No. 1, American Legion, Forty and Eight; and Alpha Omega Alpha.

### ***Recent Contributions to Public Health***

As the shortage of qualified personnel is one of the major public health problems today, one instance may be given of Doctor Brown's outstanding accomplishments in relation to this problem. In his position as Health Commissioner of Nassau County, he gave leadership, co-operation, and support to Adelphi College, Garden City, L.I., which resulted in the national accreditation of the four-year program leading to a B.S. in nursing and enables graduates of the School of Nursing to practice public health nursing immediately upon gradu-

ation. This was possible largely because of the high standards of service and personnel maintained by Doctor Brown in the public health nursing division of his department of health, where student nurses from Adelphi College receive their field work in public health. Nine public health nurses have been added to the Nassau County Health Department staff following their graduation from Adelphi.

Since 1939, Teachers College of Columbia University and other colleges and universities have utilized the resources of the Nassau County Department of Health for field experience of both undergraduate and postgraduate students in public health nursing.

The high esteem in which Doctor Brown is held in his present work is evidenced by the following quotation from a report issued by the Nassau County Government—

"When the Nassau County Charter created a county-wide health department in 1938, an investment was made in public health which today finds Nassau County one of the safest places in which to be born and to live . . . Today it is recognized throughout New York State as a model of efficiency. Divorced from politics at its conception, Nassau's health department has operated with one rule uppermost—the greatest possible service to every man, woman, and child in the county. The high rating the department has won on a national scale is evidence of the success of this policy.

"The choice of a commissioner to head the health department was the first important decision with which county officials were faced when the new department was set up. A nation-wide search for the best man resulted in the selection of Dr. Earle G. Brown, and he is still at the helm."

## HONOR SHARED

And so, the Kansas Public Health Association welcomes Doctor Brown back to Kansas for the 1954 annual meeting. In honoring him with the Samuel J. Crumbine Award, we bring honor to our beloved State, and to the Association.

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"In nothing do men approach the gods more closely than in the bringing of health to mankind."

—*Cicero*