

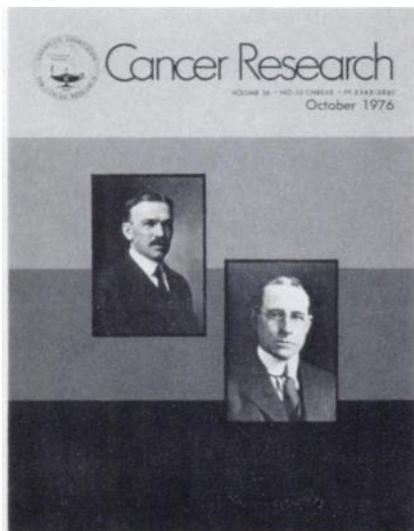
Cancer Research

VOLUME 36 • NO. 10 CNREA8 • PP 3545-3861

October 1976



COVER LEGEND



Among the illustrious earlier students of tumors in the mouse were two American pathologists, E. E. Tyzzer of Harvard and H. Gideon Wells of Chicago.

Ernest Edward Tyzzer (1875–1965) (*left*) “was a large, kindly man, who spoke slowly, softly, simply and succinctly.” Born in Massachusetts, graduate of Brown and of Harvard with an M.D. in 1902, he became professor of comparative pathology at Harvard and devoted his talents to a wide range of problems, particularly viral and parasitic diseases of birds. His interests in cancer research were paramount during 1905 to 1916, when he was director of the Harvard Cancer Commission. He wrote 15 articles on spontaneous and transplantable tumors in mice (*cf.* *J. Med. Res.*, 17: 155, 1907, and 21: 479, 1909), and on genetic factors in neoplasia. He was president of the American Association for Cancer Research, 1912–1913, and a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

Harry Gideon Wells (1875–1943) (*right*) was born in Connecticut, graduated from Yale University in 1895, and obtained his doctorate in medicine from Rush Medical College in Chicago. Then he began a distinguished career in pathology and clinical

biochemistry, at the University of Chicago, with which Rush Medical College had become affiliated. He became professor and head of the department of pathology, until illness forced his retirement in 1940. Wells was a member of the National Academy of Science, and president of the American Association for Cancer Research in 1915–1916 and again in 1919–1920.

Wells’ participation in cancer research spanned 30 years, from 1911 to 1942, and started with the historical controversy between Maud Slye (1879–1954) and Clarence C. Little (1888–1971) on cancer inheritance, which Slye claimed was a recessive trait. An exchange of articles in 1928 (*J. Cancer Res.*, 12: 30, by Little and 12: 83, by Slye) indicates the depth of this historic disagreement. Wells championed Slye forcefully but eventually admitted that she was in error.

The basic material for the investigations of Slye and of Little was mice, and the role of Wells was in the pathological examination of all animals from Slye’s colony. In a long series of papers by Maud Slye, Harriet F. Holmes, and H. Gideon Wells, neoplasms of practically every organ and tissue of the mouse were meticulously recorded and described. Starting with lung tumors in mice (*J. Med. Res.*, 30: 417, 1914), almost every volume of the *Journal of Cancer Research* and the *American Journal of Cancer* carried one or more articles from the authors. The last of the series (*Cancer Res.*, 1: 259, 1941) also dealt with lung carcinoma, and it recorded that 142,132 mice had been examined. The pathological descriptions of the neoplastic spectrum in mice, as studied by Wells, Slye, and Holmes, remain unmatched for completeness and thoroughness.

We are indebted to Dr. Shields Warren for the portrait of Tyzzer, whose obituary appears in the *Harvard University Gazette*, Vol. LXI, No. 32, April 30, 1966. The portrait of Wells is from the National Library of Medicine. Wells’ biography appears in a memoir to the National Academy of Sciences, Vol. XXVI, 1950, written by Esmond R. Long.

M. B. S.