

# BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH

Compiled by A. G. DuMez, Reporter on the Progress of Pharmacy.

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## FATHER OF REFRIGERATION.

Man's eternal thirst might have been the underlying cause of the invention of ice-making and refrigeration by mechanical means had not Dr. John Gorrie of Charleston, S. C., and Apalachicola, Fla., been actuated by a higher and nobler purpose. Dr. Gorrie wrought to cool the rooms of a hospital where fever patients were confined to grilling beds with the mercury near the century mark and no ice nearer than New England. Dr. Gorrie made ice as early as 1845. It was never Dr. Gorrie's purpose to perfect a process for making ice, but all his energies were bent on air-cooling, primarily for hospitals where fever cases were being treated. At that time Apalachicola was the most important Florida seaport, being the outlet for all the cotton grown in the Chattahoochee Valley in Georgia and Alabama. The greatest drawback to the growth of the town was the prevalence of fever in summer. In his large practice Dr. Gorrie found it almost impossible to treat successfully violent cases of fever in the hot months. He first evolved the theory of controlling fever by cooling the patient by external means, and it is fully set forth in the newspaper and scientific print of the day. He was almost fifty years in ad-

vance of his profession along this line, but to-day the medical world recognizes the value of his teachings without always recognizing whence they originally came. No man who examines the claims made in his application for letters patent will dispute his right to the title of Father of Mechanical Refrigeration. He prophesied the application of refrigeration to the preservation of foodstuffs and to many other uses now commonly known. His claims for air-cooling in hospitals, dwellings and warehouses put him in the front rank of American inventors, and no invention held greater possibilities for human comfort than his.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The above was abstracted a number of years ago from an article by George D. Lowe, in "Uncle Remus," *The Home Magazine*.

The statue of Dr. John Gorrie is near that of Dr. C. W. Long in Statuary Hall at the Capitol in Washington.

Roger Burlingame writes interestingly of John Uri Lloyd in *Drug Topics* for September. The introductory lines read—"Pharmacy's 'Little Corsican' nearing his 80th birthday, happy in his work of tearing down fetish and blazing new trails, discusses some of the things that made life interesting to him."