

## The University

### The Regents

Dr. Tom Lowry, '16med, Oklahoma City physician and member of the Medical School faculty since 1920, was unanimously appointed acting dean of the Medical School by the Board of Regents October 6 at the second fall meeting.

Dr. Lowry succeeds Gen. Robert U. Patterson, who served as dean for seven years before resigning last spring. The appointment specified as temporary, runs from November 15, 1942, to July 1, 1943. He accepted on the condition that the University continue its search for a full-time dean.

The new dean holds the rank of professor of clinical medicine at the Medical School and is on the staff of Wesley Hospital, Oklahoma General Hospital and the University Hospitals in Oklahoma City. For many years he was associated in medical practice with his twin brother, Dr. Dick Lowry, '16med, who died in December, 1941.

Dr. Lowry is past president of the Oklahoma County Medical Society and a member of the Council of the Oklahoma Medical Association. While a student in the University, he was a member of Kappa Alpha fraternity, Phi Mu Alpha, Phi Beta Pi, Pe-et, the glee club, and received the first Letzeiser medal ever awarded in the spring of 1914.

To add to the varied list of activities, Dr. Lowry 30 years ago was a crack Sooner athlete, ranking as the fastest man on Bennie Owen's football teams of 1911, 1912 and 1913. He also went out for track, brought home laurels from several state collegiate meets. After graduation, he did his internship in New York City for two years, joined the Army and was a captain in the Medical Corps stationed at an evacuation hospital in France during World War I.

His wife is the former Ethel Maude Smith, who holds two degrees from the University. Two daughters now attending O. U. are Mrs. Robert Wallace King, a fine arts senior, and Jean Lowry, fine arts sophomore. A third daughter, Elizabeth Lowry, is a junior in Classen High School, Oklahoma City.

Several noted medical leaders of the nation are being considered for the permanent appointment as dean of the School of Medicine, President Brandt announced. In making the selection, Mr. Brandt and the Board of Regents are working in co-operation with the faculty advisory committee



#### SUPER IDENTIFICATION CARD

*Trudy Billings, business student from Norman, displays the streamlined identification card issued for the first time this fall to O. U. students. On its face is space for the owner's picture, name, address, school in which enrolled, telephone number and signature. Down the right side are consecutively numbered squares, from one to six, which will be punched out during the year in voting at student elections.*

of the School of Medicine and the committee on medical education of the American Medical Association.

► At the suggestion of President Brandt, the regents named the North Oval the Vernon Parrington Oval, in honor of the man who created the plan. Mr. Parrington, who was first football coach of the University and first chairman of the English department, was awarded the Pulitzer prize for American literature for his *Main Currents in American Thought*.

The regents approved the twelve-month plan suggested for state educational institutions by the State Regents for Higher Education and now pending legislative approval. "Considering the magnitude of the present emergency, we feel that it is the patriotic duty of the University to accelerate its program in training technical personnel for the war effort," the board stated in approving the new scheme.

The regents approved the following appointments:

Mrs. Belle W. Goodman, assistant in chemistry.  
Mrs. Leona Holmes Giles, director of public information, Extension Division.

Mrs. Alma I. McCasland, secretary, College of Engineering.

Mrs. Blanche Spradlin, secretary, College of Fine Arts.

Cairns K. Smith, acting associate professor of history.

Mrs. Gladys Quigg LaFon, special instructor in mathematics.

Dr. H. Thompson Avey, director of out-patient and admitting departments, University Hospital.

Dr. A. L. Swenson, assistant in department of orthopedic surgery, Crippled Children's Hospital, Oklahoma City.

Dr. Samuel A. Carson, former instructor in the department of zoology and physiology at the University of Texas, appointed assistant professor of physiology in the School of Medicine.

William Schriever, recently named chairman of the Department of Physics, appointed director of the School of Engineering Physics and thus will hold two positions.

Mrs. Marjorie Owens Van Trump, secretary and herbarium assistant in Department of Plant Sciences.

### Patterson's Statement

Needs of the University School of Medicine—adequate finances, buildings and recognition of its work by the state and administration—were described at length by its former dean, Gen. Robert U. Patterson, in a statement issued to the University regents.

General Patterson, who resigned last summer, released the statement at the regents meeting October 6 when Dr. Tom Lowry, '16med, was appointed temporary dean. Late last month, General Patterson accepted a position as dean of the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

The following is the text of his statement:

It is with great regret that I relinquish my duties with the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine and its two teaching hospitals, the University and Crippled Children's Hospitals. I think it is not too much to say that the Medical School is one of the best equipped institutions of its size in the country, and that the high reputation that has been earned by its graduates is definite evidence of the excellence of teaching given in that institution. While undoubtedly there will be failures in the future, as every good school does have, it is a fact that there has been no failure before a State Board of Medical Examiners for a license to practice by any graduate of this school during the last eleven years, although they have taken examinations in many states.

The greatest need of the Medical School is that the State as a whole, and especially its administration, should realize the great value of the Medical School and Hospitals to the State, not only on account of its excellent reputation but of its great value to the State from a financial standpoint. It is not generally known or recognized that the members of the Clinical Faculty of the School, and its Staff of the Hospitals, give their professional services in the care of indigent citizens without remuneration. It has been conservatively estimated that the money value of professional services ren-

dered by the medical profession of Oklahoma City, and the visiting lecturers from the State at large, who form its faculty and staff its hospital, is worth more than three quarters of a million dollars in excess of the total appropriation made for the Medical School and both Hospitals by the State each year.

The next legislature must grant increased appropriations for operating expenses and payment of salaries in the Medical School so that it can compete with other schools to attract and retain the services of competent teachers. Every year we lose valuable teachers because some other universities are able to pay them larger salaries than Oklahoma can do with the present appropriations. The School forms a splendid nucleus which can be developed into one of the greatest Medical Centers in the country if it can only receive more adequate appropriations and support.

A building program has been approved by the Board of Regents of the University since 1936. As yet, not one item of that building program has been provided up to the present time. Some of the new buildings desired, and additions to buildings that are required, are urgent. Notably, provisions for an Isolation Building for both Hospitals, and a new Nurses Home. Also, a new wing for the University Hospital, which will enable the State more adequately to accommodate more indigent patients who come from every county. At the present time there are more than 2,000 adult patients on the waiting list for the University Hospital. As yet, that Hospital is only able to provide for about one-tenth of those who need medical treatment in the wards of that institution.

The building program calls for, in the future, a Cancer Unit, a building for the early diagnosis of incipient tuberculosis and for the treatment of terminal cases, a building for the study and treatment of a limited number of patients suffering from mental diseases (Psychiatric Building), for a modern and expanded Utility Building, later an additional wing to the Children's Hospital, an annex to the Medical School Building, and finally a Student Union Building. The students in the Medical School are the only students in the University who do not have the comfort and facilities of a Union Building, as is the case of their fellow students at Norman. Finally, by the time the State has doubled its population in the future, it will then be justifiable to place on the Campus of the Medical School a building for the teaching of dentistry.

While the committee of the faculty is canvassing the field for a full-time dean and superintendent for the Hospital, it is a very wise step to place in charge such a well qualified and well experienced physician as Dr. Lowry, who is one of the distinguished graduates of our Medical School. It is not my purpose during this war to loaf. I will continue in some work which may be of some value to the war effort, even if I am called to active duty by the Army. Such action is very unlikely, as it is not the policy of the War Department at the present time to call to active duty officers who have reached the statutory age for retirement. I have never received kinder treatment than from the citizens of this State in general, and have many warm friends. I am sorry to leave them. One thing is certain: as long as I am living I will have the deepest interest in the welfare and success of the University of Oklahoma, and most particularly its Medical School.

Shortly after General Patterson's statement was released, the following editorial entitled "The Medical School Needs Friends" appeared in the *Oklahoma City Times*:

It would be well for Oklahoma's legislators to give some deep consideration to the farewell report of Gen. Robert U. Patterson, retiring as dean of the state university's school of medicine.

The medical school is in need of everything that a topranking school could need. It needs more funds, more space, more equipment, more instructors.

If the school does not get the things it needs, the chances are it will sink to a "B" level in the standing of medical colleges of the country. It ranks as an "A" school now, turning out as good

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## CAMPUS CALENDAR

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November 7—Sooner-Kansas State football game at Lawrence.

November 9 to 14—Frontier Week.

November 14—Homecoming, Sooner-Missouri football game at Norman.

November 21—Sooner-Temple football game at Philadelphia.

December 2—Public lecture, "Action and Reaction: The Law of Politics," by Cortez A. M. Ewing, 8:00 p.m., in the Engineering Auditorium.

December 5—Sooner-William and Mary football game at Norman.

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doctors as any of them anywhere. If it does drop in the standing, however, it will be a blow that would require years to repair.

The state should not let that happen. The medical school has been kicked around so much that it is amazing the way it has gained and maintained the high ranking it enjoys now. The school needs a building-up program extending over a period of five years.

### Year-Round Plan

Probably the greatest of all wartime changes undertaken at the University is scheduled to become effective after the first of the year when the institution will go on a year-round basis if sufficient funds are available.

The new program, first approved by the State Regents of Higher Education, was approved last month for O. U. by the University regents. When and if put in force, it will bring a complete change in the present system as it calls for three semesters of 16 weeks each instead of the present two semesters of 18 weeks plus a summer school.

Action in getting the new program under way will depend on what the 19th Oklahoma State Legislature, meeting in January, does about voting finances. Officials hoped that the new system would be well under way by next summer.

Under the new proposal, the school year would consist of three separate semesters all having equal weight. Degrees could be earned after two years and eight months of instruction. President Brandt said the schools to be most affected by the revised program would be the School of Medicine and the College of Engineering which have never had regular summer schools.

### War Correspondents

Two United Press correspondents, just returned from battlefronts, appeared before campus audiences recently, decried U. S. lethargy and urged more action and less talk.

Virgil Pinkley, who covered recent events in India, Germany and Egypt, stated that the United States must get tough and forget about "over-emphasis on politics and damnable tie-ups between management and labor" in order to win the war.

Richard Wilson, former Oklahoma newspaperman who returned on the exchange liner Gripsholm, told of the barbaric treatment given Japanese war prisoners. He urged that Americans should stop lulling themselves with optimistic hopes and real-

ize that this is a bitter global war which will not be easily won.

Mr. Wilson was interned in Hongkong when it capitulated last December. Appearances of both correspondents were sponsored by the School of Journalism.

### Scrap to Melting Pot

University officials were arranging for a railroad car last month to ship tons of well-assorted metal scrap dug from O. U.'s campus basements, storerooms and hidden nooks during an extensive two-week scrap drive.

No estimate was made on the tonnage, but the collected heap near the power plant included such pieces as wheel barrows, bedsteads and wheels. The University Press alone rounded up nearly a ton of brass and copper in cuts and engraving plates.

The Athletic Department contributed shower pipes, shelves, iron rope, water faucets and an old keg of bolts.

### Title for Oval

The oblong expanse of lawn and trees north of the Administration Building, long known simply as the North Oval, has been christened the Vernon Parrington Oval in memory of the late faculty member who designed it.

Mr. Parrington, who taught at the University from 1897 to 1908, was fired from the faculty. He later distinguished himself as one of the foremost scholars of his time and author of a Pulitzer prize-winning book, *Main Currents in American Thought*.

He was the first director of organized athletics at the University and one of the earliest professors of English.

During the last year the oval has been used as a gathering place after Matriculation and Commencement ceremonies for class yells and singing. It was also the site in September of the ceremony commemorating the University's fiftieth anniversary.

### Artist Series

Six numbers scheduled for the University's 1942-43 Artists Series were announced last month by Charlotte Shepherd, '39ba, newly appointed director of the lecture and entertainment bureau in the Extension Division.

First performance on the series was given by the Graff Ballet company which appeared at the University November 3. Other numbers will be Will Osborne and Orchestra, December 1; Henry Scott, piano comedian, December 10; Ruth Draper, character actress, January 27; Carmen Amaya Dance Group, February 13, and Maj. Alexander P. de Seversky, author of *Victory Through Air Power*, March 3.

Probably all performances, except Will Osborne's Orchestra, will begin at 8:15 p.m. in Holmberg Hall, Miss Shepherd announced. The orchestra will play for a dance in some available ballroom. The annual custom of the Artists Series committee in selecting a big-name dance band as one of the numbers has brought such top orchestra leaders as Orrin Tucker and Hal Kemp to the campus.