

Editor's Note



The following article, **Kansas Horse & Buggy Doctor Receives Letter from Albert Einstein**, by Jane F. Knapp, M.D. and Robert D. Schremmer, M.D., provides a glimpse into the history of medicine in Kansas. It was published originally in **Missouri Medicine**. We appreciate Dr. John Hagan, Editor of **Missouri Medicine**, for allowing the Kansas Journal of Medicine to reprint it.

PERSPECTIVE FEATURE

Kansas Horse & Buggy Doctor Receives Letter from Albert Einstein

by Jane F. Knapp, MD & Robert D. Schremmer, MD



Arthur Hertzler at his desk.
Courtesy of the Kansas Learning Center
for Health.

Besides the unpublished letter from *Gone With the Wind* author Margaret Mitchell, the correspondence of Arthur Emanuel Hertzler, MD, also included a letter to him by Albert Einstein.
Courtesy of the Kansas Learning Center for Health.

Princeton, N. J.
June 24, 1944

Summer-address June 26th-Sept.
Knollwood, Saranac Lake, N.Y.
Cottage 6.

Dr. Arthur E. Hertzler
Halstead, Kansas

My dear Dr. Hertzler:

You were so kind to send me your highly interesting book "The Grounds of an Old Surgeon's Faith". I have given much time to it and was rewarded by the many interesting and genuine thoughts and witty remarks contained in it. It is really remarkable that you could find so much time to write it; I know how heavy the burden is which lies on the shoulders of a country doctor.

Certain things astonished me very much, f.i. that you have such a strong resentment against our old and great leader Moses. He was certainly--for his time--an excellent law-giver and it seems to me very doubtful if all this superstitious stuff attributed to him comes under his account at all (some times it seems to me that you were influenced by something like bad conscience having become a renegade to the Jewish community). In my opinion the essential thing in the Jewish community is not this mixture of rituals and superstition but a certain common way of life or mentality produced by a long historic process and common destiny. It is very astonishing to me that you are treating this whole question of formal religion with so much earnestness. You would hardly find an European scientist who would do so in our days. My (tentative) explanation for this behaviour is that church organization plays such an important role in American life, especially in the rural district.

Thanking you very much for the interesting hours which you have given me and which you will give me still in the future, I am

yours very sincerely,

(signed) Albert Einstein.