

## RESEARCH MEDICINE (WING AND PRAYER DIVISION)

*(Originally Published April 1962)*

Out of the coffee cups this month came an unusual tale about one of Abe Conger's experiences on the local lecture circuit last spring. Despite much effort and prayer, the episode ended in disaster and embarrassment for all.

Volunteering to expound on chicken cancer to a group of embryonic research biologists at Baker High, Abe frantically assembled some hard-to-come-by source material and gave two impressive talks on cancer and tumors to spellbound audiences. The enterprising youngsters had somehow secured a bit of transmissible sarcoma virus and had successfully induced a cancerous growth to appear on the wing of a young chicken. By the experiment's end, the class had become so attached to Samson the chicken that, conscience stricken, they prevailed upon Abe to effect a surgical cure. A date was chosen, and in due time a delegation appeared at Abe's office with the feathered patient-pet in tow.

With the stage set, instruments gleaming and the tensed audience briefed, Samson was stretched protesting on the operating table for a wing disarticulation. Abe, with true S.P.C.A. compassion, injected xylocaine locally and made the incision, whereupon Samson gave one gasping squawk, and with no consideration at all for research, scientists or surgeon, expired ignominiously.