

## XV

# The Founders

The distinguishing character of a school is a quality reflected from the persons who administer it, conduct its classes and produce its discoveries. The institution is notable, ordinary or inferior in quite direct proportion to the competence, vision and zeal of these human agencies. Long ago, President Edmund James offered a cogent comment on these matters as they apply to the Northwestern University Medical School:

No one can study the history of this School without an increasing admiration for the men who founded and developed it, and for the men who are now carrying it on with such self-devotion and untiring industry. It is certainly only their interest in the profession and in humanity which leads them, year after year, to give their services so lavishly to this cause without any other return than the feeling of a good cause advanced.

Partly for the purpose of completing the record, but more importantly to put on display samples of the top cream of personalities in the life of Northwestern University Medical School, and to indicate the kind of men who made it more than just another medical college, the next three chapters will be devoted to biographical sketches of Founders, Deans and distinguished members of the Faculty.

The chief Founders, who also remained active in the new college for many years, were six in number: Davis; Johnson; Andrews; Byford; Hollister; and Isham. David Rutter was active only during the planning and the first term; he never served as a teacher. The six constituted an eminent galaxy. They had strength of purpose, faithfulness to the self-imposed trust, and confidence in their cause. They were long-continuing forces, contributing to the life and progress of the new-style medical college. With respect to these

Founders, Franklin H. Martin (class of 1880) made this observation:

The six young men, full of youthful courage and enthusiasm and fired with the glory of a new ideal, determined to embark upon a great adventure—an adventure which meant the founding of a new medical school and the revolutionizing of the methods of medical teaching the country over. It was no mean decision which these young men were called upon to make, for failure spelled for them disaster—financial, social and professional. But they did not fail.

NATHAN SMITH DAVIS, A.M., M.D., LL.D.  
1817-1904

The parents of N. S. Davis emigrated from Massachusetts to the town of Green in south central New York. They were pioneer settlers who cleared the virgin forest and farmed the reclaimed land. Nathan, the youngest of seven children, was born on January 9, 1817, in a primitive log house. His mother died when he was seven years old. Winters, until he reached the age of sixteen, were spent in attending the district school; work on the farm absorbed the remaining months. Nathan's father, perceiving the boy's studious bent, then sent him for a term to Cazenovia Seminary, forty miles away. This experience confirmed the youth's desire to pursue higher studies, and at the age of seventeen he began an apprenticeship in medicine under a physician in his home county.

In the autumn of the same year, Nathan enrolled in the four-month course in medicine at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Western New York, located in rural Fairfield. After this first term he entered the office of Dr. Thomas Jackson, of Binghamton, continuing his pupilage there until two more sessions of the same lectures had been taken at Fairfield. This experience caused him, even as an adolescent, to question the rationality of such a repetitious system of instruction. Shortly after his twentieth birthday, Nathan graduated with honors. His thesis showed both originality and boldness by offering experimental evidence to contest the prevalent teaching that the lungs were the seat of heat formation.

A few months of practice in the small town of Vienna were not to

the liking of the young physician, except that there he met the young lady whom he would marry within a year. Hence in July, 1837, he opened an office in Binghamton. The next ten years of professional life were interlarded with systematic studies, wide in scope. In this manner Davis became competent in Latin and an expert botanist. Familiarity was also gained with chemistry, geology, political economy and English literature. With this broadened horizon he acted frequently as a lecturer on science at the Binghamton Academy, which he had helped to found.



*Nathan S. Davis*

When only three years out of medical college, Davis was awarded the prize offered by the State Medical Society for the best essay on the diseases of the spinal column, and the next year he won again on an analysis of discoveries concerning the functions of the nervous system. While still in his pupilage Davis had helped organize the Lyceum Debating Society of Binghamton. On returning to that town he entered into debating activities and overcame a natural diffidence, so that he became an easy, fluent speaker. Time would prove that no one in medical circles, locally or nationally, was superior; no one was equally feared as an opponent in debate.

Entering into the activities of the county medical society, first as Secretary and then as Librarian, Davis represented it at the annual meetings of the New York State Medical Society in 1844-47. There he was pleased to find that he was already favorably known by his writings and, although under thirty years of age, his opinions were respected. This introduction to organizational work in medicine initiated a remarkable public career in medical politics and education. Even in his first term Davis introduced resolutions that paved the way to productive campaigns, which led soon to the establishment of the American Medical Association and later to the reformation of the system of medical education.

In 1847 Davis moved to New York City and entered upon general practice. Here he gained baptism in the arts of teaching and editing. The College of Physicians and Surgeons placed him in charge of its dissecting room, and also had him lecture on Medical Jurisprudence. Journalistic experience began when he became editor of *The Annalist*, a semimonthly medical periodical. Any intention of permanent residence, however, was disrupted after two years by an invitation to come to Chicago and occupy the chair of Physiology and General Pathology in the recently opened Rush Medical College. The lure and opportunity of a raw, young city, whose destiny seemed plain, and of the sole medical college within a radius of hundreds of miles, offset the more stable enticements of well-established New York and its chief medical college. And so the autumn of 1849 found Davis, 32 years old and with wife and two children, completing a weary journey by railway, stage, canal boat and steam packet, and casting his lot in a bustling city of some 23,000 inhabitants. From that time onward he was to be actively identified with almost every important educational, scientific and sanitary interest of Chicago. Henceforth he would attain every honor that he might reasonably covet. Yet he would also sustain devastating loss in the Great Fire, and face tragedy within his family circle.

After a first year at Rush Medical College Davis was transferred to the chair of Medicine, which he accepted only after activating the formation of Chicago's first hospital, without which he felt didactic instruction would be sterile (p. 417). Although holding this clinical professorship for ten years, he became increasingly unhappy over his failure to convert the reactionary President and Trustees to the

views of a higher standard of medical education that he had advocated, and his brain-child, the American Medical Association, had been created to foster. Accordingly, in 1859, he welcomed the opportunity to join forces with others in founding a new medical college that would give his educational theories a fair trial. It was the opportunity of a lifetime, and he knew it.

The long history of the Davis efforts locally in the Chicago Medical College, and of his influence nationally in promoting the acceptance of higher standards of medical education, has been set forth in previous chapters of this book. Here it need be said only that Davis soon became the dominant personality of the Chicago Medical College, as he was also the militant exponent of the new educational order nationally. From 1866 to 1898 he was the official head of the College, as well. Had he been less consecrated to his ideal or had his iron determination weakened or faltered, it is possible that the College might have succumbed. But besides his indomitable spirit, seemingly limitless industry and endurance, he was fortunate in having the constant support of able and loyal colleagues, who also had the will to endure hard work and discouragements. Rarely does a reformer live to see his ambitious unorthodoxy approved and adopted as the correct procedure. Yet such was the case in this instance, and it became the greatest source of gratification to the venerable apostle of educational reform in his declining years.

From the founding of the College until 1892, Dr. Davis held the chair of the Principles and Practice of Medicine and of Clinical Medicine. From 1866 to 1870 he was President of the Faculty and, after the affiliation with Northwestern University in the latter year, he served as Dean of the School until 1898. The titles of an emeritus professorship and deanship were held for twelve and six years, respectively, until his death in 1904.

As a teacher in the lecture hall and ward, Dr. Davis was diligent and effective. Rarely missing an assignment of his own, he would often substitute for another and took pride in being able to lecture from any chair. During some college sessions he gave as many as ten didactic and clinical lectures weekly. His lectures, delivered with enthusiasm but with austere gravity, were marvels of compactness and vivid portrayal that none could excel. His command of English was remarkable in its simplicity and flexibility. His language took

the form of short, incisive sentences; although not elegantly oratorical, it was forceful, logical and effective. He was a natural teacher who gained and held the interest of his listeners, instructing them in a way to be remembered. It was said by leaders of the profession that no man could so clearly describe a disease and demonstrate the condition in a patient before him. His pedagogical efforts transcended the bounds of medicine alone. Believing that a physician should represent the highest type of manhood, he sought to instill students with a lofty appreciation of life, duty and the potentialities of latent powers. Dr. Henry T. Byford once said: "Our knowledge came from all professors, but our inspiration came from him."

As a general practitioner Dr. Davis had no patience with specialism, early abandoning surgery because of the pyramiding demands of a rapidly widening family-clientele. In Chicago he quickly developed an enormous general practice — larger, probably, than any in the West — yet he never refused the call of the sick poor, regardless of time or weather. Daily his office was filled with patients from six in the morning until noon. He then made house calls, went to the Hospital or lectured at the College, commonly not returning home until nearly midnight. Routine cases were disposed of in a few minutes and with scant ceremony; the uniform fee was one dollar. In obscure or complicated cases, and in his consultative practice which was the largest in Chicago, his technical skills, systematic thoroughness, and analytic and diagnostic powers were a revelation to all. If he erred in treatment, it was in placing too implicit faith in the power of then available medicines for any and all ailments. An outstanding limitation of Dr. Davis was his conservatism, bordering on bigotry. He tended to oppose anything new in science or politics. He scoffed at the introduction of the clinical thermometer and hypodermic syringe, and did not accept the 'germ theory' of disease because some bacteria inhabit the healthy body (p. 185). This attitude exerted an unfortunate influence on the plastic minds of his idolatrous students.

Dr. Davis was a constant contributor to medical and cognate literature, the more important articles, by his own selection, during sixty years numbering 138. These were written with care and accuracy; the language is clear and concise, done in the author's precise but facile style. Striking features are the factual basis, where

possible, and the large amount of original experimentalism at a time when facilities for this were meager. At the early age of 31, Davis became the editor of *The Annalist*, the first of eight periodicals to come under his care. On leaving Rush Medical College and the editorship of its *Chicago Medical Journal*, he founded *The Chicago Medical Examiner*, which was a pretentious monthly publication. It also served as the unofficial mouthpiece of the new, rival College. At the age of 66 he became the first editor of *The Journal of the American Medical Association*. In a sense he was also its founder, since his resolution in Convention authorized its establishment. All must admire the temerity that induced him to undertake this gigantic task and continue it through twelve annual volumes, until the *Journal* attained a sound financial basis and a peerless reputation. As a famous personage, and a speaker whose command of English was widely known and enjoyed, Davis also made many public addresses.

Of published books, four will be mentioned. *History of Medical Education and Institutions in the United States* (1851) is a unique source of information from the earliest times to 1850. It was re-worked and supplemented in a government report, issued by the Bureau of Education in conjunction with the Centennial Celebration of 1876. *A History of the American Medical Association* (1855) is a basic account in which Davis himself played a stellar, but modestly reported, role. *Lectures on the Principles and Practice of Medicine* (1884) embodies stenographic records of 92 extemporaneous lectures to his class. They faithfully display the clear, terse Davis style; they also reveal both weakness and strength, since "... he quotes from nobody, except King Solomon, defers to nobody, borrows from nobody." Presenting personal opinions only, it falls short of being a conventional textbook. *History of Medicine* (1903) is based on the annual course of lectures on this subject, delivered in his later years to the Senior class. It is, perhaps, the most remarkable work of the author, though published at the age of 86. How he found time to unearth a comprehensive history of medicine from the earliest periods onward, and how he was able to arrange the material so cleverly and to condense it so successfully, must excite the admiration of all. Throughout life his voluminous writings and, at times, immense correspondence were conducted without assistance, either human or mechanical.

The catalyzing role of Dr. Davis in organized medicine was so important that he is recognized with propriety and with general consent as the "Father of the American Medical Association." An initial proposal of his was adopted by the New York State Medical Society; it recommended that a national convention of delegates be held to adopt some concerted action by which the standard of medical education could be elevated. Davis, at that time 28 years of age, was appointed chairman of a committee to carry his resolution into effect. Empowered with this directive, he entered into correspondence with all the colleges and medical societies of the country. At a preliminary national meeting in New York (1846) Davis was an energetic delegate; he became chairman of a committee that recommended, among other things, the institution of a national medical association and a mechanism for executing a plan of permanent organization. Again Davis was made a member of a committee to accomplish this end. One year later, in Philadelphia, the American Medical Association came into being.

In 1864 Davis was elected President of the Association; a subsequent term made him the only person to have held that office twice. In 1883 he became the original Editor of *The Journal of the A.M.A.* Throughout life his active participation in the labors of the Association continued, and at the annual meetings he was ever a power, respected for his wisdom, feared in debate and distrusted by some who did not approve of his skill in medical politics. First appointed Secretary-General of the Ninth International Medical Congress, held in Washington in 1887, Davis became President following the death of the original nominee. He served with conspicuous ability, dignity and grace.

Nathan S. Davis participated in the promotion of many "good works." His active roles in the founding of the Chicago Medical College, Mercy Hospital and the American Medical Association have been mentioned. He was elected a Trustee of Northwestern University shortly after its incorporation and, except for a few years, remained on the Board for the rest of his life. It was he who took the part of chief intermediary in the affiliation of the Chicago Medical College with the University. Davis was among the founders of the following organizations: Chicago Medical Society (1850); Illinois State Medical Society (1850); Chicago Historical Society (1856); Chicago Relief and Aid Society (1857); Chicago



Academy of Sciences (1857); Union College of Law (1859); State Microscopical Society of Illinois (1869); Davis Free Dispensary (1873). The Union College of Law was, for a period, jointly the legal department of Northwestern University and of the old University of Chicago, but on the demise of the latter it became the Northwestern University School of Law. For twenty years Dr. Davis was Professor of Medical Jurisprudence in that School, lecturing learnedly and interestingly in the evening, after a long day at the office, hospital and Medical School. The Davis Free Dispensary was renamed successively as the South Side Dispensary, the Montgomery Ward Clinic and the Northwestern University Medical Clinics.

It was not in the Davis nature to lend his name to an enterprise merely as an ornament. He was an active participant in the affairs of a society or institution, or his name did not grace its roster. It is unnecessary to itemize his titles as president, secretary or trustee of the several organizations just listed. Among his many honors were an honorary A.M. from Northwestern University (1871), and LL.D. degrees from Illinois Wesleyan University (1878) and Northwestern University (1897).

A colleague, Dr. Hollister, said that Davis once told him that on entering a medical career he had three great ambitions, all of which had been fulfilled. One was to unify the medical profession by the creation of a national medical association. The second was to establish a medical college with extended courses of study and a more rational curriculum. The third was to publish a textbook that would embody his views of the theory and practice of medicine. For more than a half century Dr. Davis attended to his exacting professional duties, met his obligations to the College and Hospital, and still, without aid of typewriter, stenographer or secretary, found time to write, edit, lecture and enter into the affairs of management and policies of all of the organizations that enlisted his aid. Where would one find, in the long annals of medicine, another who engaged in so many activities and did them all so well?

Throughout life Dr. Davis was a total abstainer from alcoholic beverages. He spent so much of his energy in writing, lecturing and organizing against the use of alcohol, either as a beverage or as a therapeutic agent, that he was often called a "temperance crank." But unlike most temperance advocates, his arguments were backed by original experiments concerning the effects of alcohol on bodily

functions. So it was natural that he enlisted in the work of the Good Templars and became a director of its reclamatory Washingtonian Home in Chicago (1864). Later he energized a movement that resulted in the organization of the American Medical Temperance Association (1890). The decrease in the use of alcohol in medical practice was to a considerable degree the result of “. . . the ceaseless hammering of Dr. Davis on his temperance anvil, for a full half-century.”

In his eighty-fifth year a testimonial banquet was given to Dr. Davis, at the Auditorium Hotel, under the auspices of the Chicago Medical Society. Some 350 physicians from Chicago and various parts of the country attended. The guest of honor sat between two former colleagues of world renown, Dr. Fenger, the President of the Society, and Dr. Billings, the toastmaster. Among the graduates of the Chicago Medical College, present to do him honor, were the Deans of the three important medical colleges of the city. Speeches were made by eminent visitors, reminiscences were told by colleagues, a loving cup was presented to the “Nestor of the medical profession” and Dr. Davis made a characteristic response. At the end the audience was asked to rise “. . . and, in that beverage which Dr. Davis loves and has continued to pledge his life, drink to his health.” This was done on the sentiment proposed by the guest of honor, himself:

Pure water, Nature's universal antiseptic; it disorders no man's brain; it fills no asylums or prisons; it begets no anarchy; but it sparkles in the dew drop, it glows in the peaceful rainbow, and flows in the river of life close by the throne of God.

In less than three years his long life was to end. The city of Evanston would then honor his memory by attaching his name to a street, a city square and a school.

Physically Dr. Davis was wiry, lithe and vigorous. There was individuality and dignity in his look and carriage. His long, strong face was of the Andrew Jackson type. A narrow rim of beard, beneath his jutting jaw, reached from ear to ear. A full forehead, somewhat bushy hair, shaggy overhanging brows, keen deep-set eyes, prominent nose, wide firm mouth, thin lips and strong chin completed his arresting features. He was of grave, earnest

demeanor and rarely smiled. Even in repose his face wore an expression of alertness and determination. His resonant voice was rather low in pitch and his speech seemed to well from wisdom and knowledge. His habitual dress was black: a broadcloth dress suit, supplemented with a tall silk hat, gleaming expanse of shirt front, standing collar and black bow tie. In later years his trim, quaint figure, erect carriage and brisk, firm step attracted notice; he became a familiar character in the Chicago scene. Dr. William A. Pusey concluded that Davis was one of the few great men whom he had ever met who looked the part.

Much has been written concerning his personal qualities, such as kindness, charity, idealism and absence of pretension. A superficial sternness of manner masked an essentially gentle and kindly spirit. Dr. Frank Billings listed among his chief characteristics those of industry, tenacity of purpose, integrity, progressiveness and liberality. His biographer and colleague, Dr. Isaac N. Danforth, thought that the leading elements of the Davis rugged character were honesty, fearlessness, breadth of view, altruism, public spiritedness and Christianity. A prominent Chicago clinician characterized him as "untiring, irrepressible, uncompromising, and incorruptible." Yet no one is a paragon. Good testimony shows that at times he was imperious, impatient and intolerant; at other times, given to violent outbursts of temper and torrents of sarcasm or invective.

A first, brief experience as a practitioner in Vienna, New York, was not rewarding to Dr. Davis except in one regard. It served to introduce him to Anna Maria Parker, whom he married on March 5, 1838. He was then barely 21 years of age, and she not yet eighteen. There were born to them three children. Both boys became physicians, and the younger succeeded his father as Professor of Medicine and Dean of the Medical School. The public life of Dr. Davis practically closed with attendance, as an honored guest, at the Golden Jubilee of the American Medical Association in 1897. Yet he continued an office practice until ten days before his death. In 1886 he was stricken with a cerebral hemorrhage that resulted in complete right paralysis, but he rallied amazingly and in a few weeks was about again, although a slightly dragging leg followed him to the grave. Nearly twenty years later it was his heart that failed, and he died on June 16, 1904, already in his eighty-eighth year.

The funeral service, at the Davis home, was brief, simple and private. Later, the Chicago Medical Society held a memorial service in Power's Theater, at which addresses were given by Bishops of Methodist Episcopal and Roman Catholic Churches. Still later, addresses accompanied the presentation of a bronze commemorative tablet (p. 193) erected by the Senior class, 1905. Eulogies, from many sources, sought to encompass the manifold interests and activities of the departed leader and all, of necessity, ran to length. Most appropriate to cite is, perhaps, a fragment from the address of Professor Webster at the tablet ceremony:

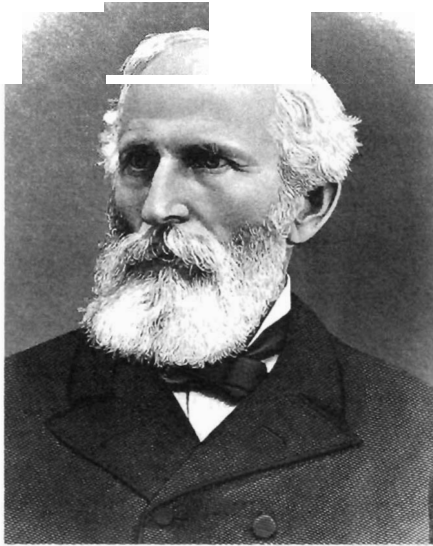
Let us then not merely recite his precepts, and catalogue his attainments and virtues, but let us rather emulate his example. Monuments, tablets and eulogy are for the dead; but no words of ours, no human speech can add anything to his fame or augment the gratitude, the grateful homage, which we here offer as a loving tribute to his memory.

HOSMER ALLEN JOHNSON, A.M., M.D.,  
LL.D., F.R.M.S.: 1822-1891

Hosmer A. Johnson was born of colonial stock in the town of Wales, near Buffalo, New York, on October 6, 1822. When he was twelve years of age, his family moved to Lapeer County, Michigan. This region was primitive, sparsely settled and without schools. The rudiments of learning had been acquired by the youngster in ten months of school while in New York. In the new home Hosmer, the oldest child, continued studies under the guidance of his mother, while he shared in the labor of clearing the forest and cultivating the land. At eighteen years of age he obtained a teacher's certificate, and the following winter began teaching a district school. This employment continued for four years, whereas summers found him attending a nearby academy. Eighteen months of such preparation not only completed the entrance requirements to college, but also encompassed the studies of the freshman year.

In the autumn of 1846 Hosmer, now approaching 24 years, gained admission to the Sophomore class at the University of Michigan. Here he was handicapped by the residual effects of a severe cold, contracted in his seventeenth year, and this bronchial disabil-

ity was never to be outlived. Such serious impairment of health ensued that he was advised by the Faculty to withdraw at the end of his Junior year, lest he not live to finish the course. Failing to secure employment as a teacher at Chicago and St. Louis, Johnson found refuge with an uncle at Vandalia, Illinois, and taught school there. He also read medicine with a local physician and, in addition, continued independently to study college subjects. His health having improved greatly by April, 1849, he returned to Ann Arbor and graduated with his class.



*Hosmer A. Johnson*

Now possessing a college degree, Johnson taught for a year in the high school at Flint, Michigan, and at the same time continued medical studies under the tutelage of Dr. DeLaskie Miller, later a well-known professor at Rush Medical College. In the autumn of 1850 he entered the regular medical course at Rush, still making an income through teaching. In the following spring he became a "resident physician" (that is, intern) at Mercy Hospital, which had just opened. He was the first person to become an intern in Chicago. Graduation from Rush, where he was the acknowledged leader of his class, came in 1852.

In conformity with the times, practice was entered upon at once and, in 1853, Dr. Johnson was invited to become Lecturer in Physiology at Rush Medical College. Two years later he became Professor of Materia Medica and Therapy, and of Medical Jurisprudence. After two more years he was transferred to the chair of Physiology and General Pathology. Following the 1858-59 session, he resigned. His rapid rise, after graduation, to professorial rank and the ready shifting about among four different subjects, emphasize the limited knowledge available in these fields. It also illustrates the ease with which an inexperienced, but intelligent, man could adapt to whatever teaching services were wanted in those days.

Dr. Johnson, free from a system of pedagogy at Rush that he did not approve, immediately became one of the four persons who negotiated with the Trustees of Lind University, and then took the initial steps in founding its Medical Department. He served as President of the Faculty for seven years and of the Board of Trustees until his death, 32 years after the founding. As a teacher, Johnson filled the chairs of Materia Medica and Therapeutics (1859), Physiology and Histology (1860), Pathology and Public Hygiene (1865), Diseases of the Chest (1867), Diseases of the Respiratory and Circulatory Organs (1869), Clinical Medicine (1875), and the Principles and Practice of Clinical Medicine (1877). In 1881 he retired from active teaching to an emeritus status.

In the autumn of the same year that the medical degree was gained (1852), the recent graduate also received the degree of Master of Arts from the University of Michigan, the thesis being presented in Latin, as was then required. Amazingly, the very year of his graduation found him active in the formation of the Chicago Medical Society, and serving as its first Secretary. For several years Johnson was Secretary of the Illinois State Medical Society and became its President in 1858. It was in this period that he began his influential role in advocating a law to legalize human dissection. For five years (1853-58) he was associated in the editorial conduct of *The North-western Medical and Surgical Journal*. At two different times he served as Secretary of the American Medical Association.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Governor Yates appointed Dr. Johnson to the board that examined all candidates for appoint-

ments as surgeon or assistant surgeon to the Illinois troops. He at once was elected to be the chief officer of this board and acted in that capacity for the duration of the War. About 1,200 candidates were examined, from which number hundreds were rejected as unqualified. Such was the efficiency of this weeding that the medical officers from Illinois were conspicuous in the entire Army for their thorough knowledge and their conduct on the field of battle. In an official capacity he repeatedly visited the troops in the field, inspecting and improving the medical and surgical regime of hospitals and camps, and examining Assistant Surgeons for promotion. In recognition of all these services he was made a member of the military order of the Loyal Legion. In 1890 he was chosen as the first President of the Army and Navy Medical Society, composed of medical officers who had served in the Civil War.

Following the War, Dr. Johnson sat for six years on the Chicago Board of Health, which supervised the important sanitary measures necessary to the health of a phenomenally growing city. In 1879, after the outbreak of yellow fever in the South, he was appointed to membership on the National Board of Health. Johnson had been active in the American Public Health Association from its inception, and sixteen years later (1888) became its President. He was a founder of the Association of American Physicians. For many years he was a director and frequently President of the Chicago Relief and Aid Society. His was the task of supervising the distribution of the more than \$5,000,000 that poured in from all parts of the country and from abroad after the Great Fire of 1871. In this important and critical humanitarian service, tens of thousands of homeless and impoverished citizens were cared for. Here his war experiences were invaluable in organizing sanitary relief. The accomplishment of this gigantic task was justly regarded by Johnson as a major achievement of his career.

During the first decades of his professional life, Dr. Johnson devoted much attention to surgery and attained a high degree of skill in this field. Afterwards he limited this specialty to surgery of the nose and throat, carried on in addition to the maintenance of a general practice. Still later, office work and consultations occupied his time. In these later years he continued as a consulting physician to Mercy, Michael Reese and Woman's Hospital. As a consultant on diseases of the throat and lungs he was regarded not only as the

pioneer in this field, but also as the highest authority in the Northwest. He was possessed of a scientific type of mind, and was a pioneer in using the microscope, thermometer and other instruments of precision and diagnosis. His writings over a 35-year period on medical and other subjects were voluminous. He was one of the leaders of the medical profession, not only in Chicago but also in the country.

In fields other than medicine there was a variety of activities. Dr. Johnson was a trustee of the old University of Chicago and then of Northwestern University; from the latter he received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws in 1883. He enjoyed membership in many societies and received numerous honors — medical, scientific and literary. He was a charter member of the Chicago Academy of Sciences, in which organization he was at different times Secretary, President and Trustee; and also a charter member of the Illinois State Microscopical Society, in which he was repeatedly chosen President. His membership in the Chicago Astronomical Society dated almost from its origin, and he served several terms as its President. He was active in the founding of the Chicago Literary Club and was its third President. Made a corresponding member of several scientific societies, he was also honored with election to the Royal Microscopical Society of London. In Freemasonry he was both active and honored, organizing the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois in the York Rite, and receiving the thirty-third degree and becoming a national officer in the Scottish Rite.

Among Dr. Johnson's astonishing capabilities was a talent for the acquisition of languages, both ancient and modern. At different times he studied Latin, Greek, Hebrew, French, German, Italian, and to some extent, Spanish. In his boyhood he had picked up a considerable practical familiarity with the Ojibway tongue. His command of English was extraordinary, and he had the ability to hold an audience in spell through faultless oratory (p. 311).

Dr. Johnson was a lover of the outdoors and an extensive traveler, finding relief in southern climates, at home and abroad, from the severe chest troubles that troubled him constantly. In 1855 he married Margaret Ann Seward. There were two children; the boy, Frank Seward Johnson, entered medicine and became Dean of Northwestern University Medical School. Death overtook Dr.



Johnson on February 26, 1891. Despite his long-standing ailment, which had led to repeated attacks of pneumonia, and to a final, fatal episode, he just missed reaching the allotted three score years and ten. In early manhood he had anticipated nothing more than a short life.

A study of his portrait conveys the impression of a handsome and distinguished personality, who was both an intellectual and a patriot. A former student said: "He was tall, handsome and gifted with elegant manners." A contemporary summarized the Johnsonian characteristics tersely: ". . . domestic qualities of sociability, companionship and hospitality; a keen student; a trenchant lecturer; a distinguished humanitarian; an accomplished physician; a staunch friend; a magnanimous opponent." Another said: "Dr. Johnson was much more than simply an eminent physician. He was a magnificent man, possessing a clear, trenchant intellect, and a great, noble heart. His reputation is without spot, and his honor without stain." No organizing medical college could have chosen a better young president to lend dignity to the infant enterprise and to secure confidence in its basic soundness and worth.

Hosmer A. Johnson was indeed a remarkable person when measured by any scale of standards. It was said that it was difficult to comprehend how so much diversified labor and so weighty responsibilities could be borne by one man. Only mental endowments of the highest order, a broad culture, rigorous training, persistent effort and efficient organization of time and energies could cope with the varied, insistent demands. This active and brilliant career was phenomenal because it entailed great courage and persistence, in which an indomitable spirit, gentle yet forceful, rose superior to the physical infirmities that dogged his life. Part of a eulogy by N. S. Davis reads as follows:

As an orator, lecturer and teacher, he was clear and direct in expression; chaste, elegant and often eloquent in style; and always commanded the earnest attention of his hearers. As a physician, he was clear-headed, kind-hearted, faithful to every duty and skillful — enjoying the implicit confidence of his patrons. As a citizen he was patriotic, benevolent, honorable and ever ready to lend efficient aid in promoting the varied interests of civilized society.

To those who have been intimately associated with him, he presents a

remarkable example of industry, varied acquirements, usefulness, unswerving integrity and the nobler qualities of a Christian gentleman.

The Faculty of the Chicago Medical College adopted resolutions which recorded that:

The College has lost the services of one of its founders and most active, able and eloquent teachers; the Northwestern University, one of its wisest trustees and councilors; the medical profession, one of its most learned, honorable and influential members; and the community, one who, for nearly forty years, has been an active, skillful and untiring benefactor to the suffering, alike in peace and war, and in the midst of the most dire conflagration.

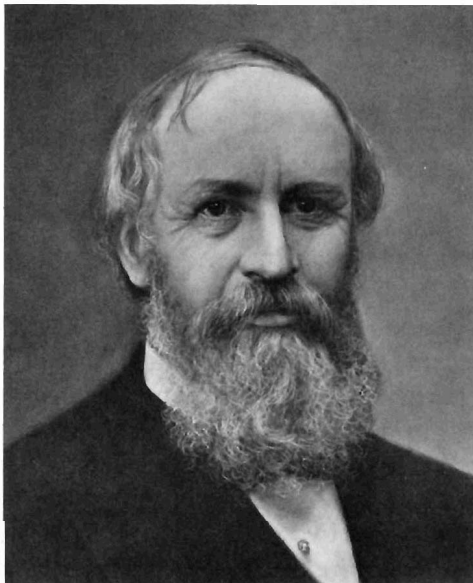
EDMUND ANDREWS, A.M., M.D., LL.D.  
1824-1904

Edmund Andrews was born at Putney, Vermont, on April 22, 1824, the oldest child of a Congregational minister. When he was five years of age his parents moved to Pittsford, New York. Here he lived until he became seventeen, attending school in Rochester, nearby. At this time his father developed a voice inadequacy and decided to become a farmer. Accordingly the family moved to Michigan, where the father purchased a large tract of land north of Detroit, with the thought of dividing it ultimately into individual farms for his children. For two years a log cabin housed the family. This country was then quite wild, and Edmund worked hard in a pioneer style of life. Studies at an academy in Romeo, not far distant, were turned toward the sciences as he prepared for college.

Edmund entered the University of Michigan when he was 22 years of age and became a classmate of Hosmer Johnson. He had previously been devoted to the enticements of botany and geology, and now his progress in mathematics and natural sciences continued to be notable. Expenses were helped by teaching vocal music and leading a church choir. On graduating, in 1849, he was retained by the University as Superintendent of Grounds and Buildings. This enabled him, at the same time, to pursue the study of medicine. And so it was that he entered the office of the foremost Detroit practi-

tioner, and also began medical studies at the University when its Medical Department opened in 1850.

At the end of his first year Andrews was made Demonstrator of Anatomy, continuing his classes the while. Besides assuming charge of dissections, it was the further responsibility of this post to procure the necessary human subjects. These were obtained within a geographical range bounded by Buffalo and Chicago. The young Demonstrator gave satisfaction by securing an adequate supply and, in doing this, acquired simultaneously a reputation for energy and tact. It is said that by his honesty, care and system while occu-



*Edmund Andrews*

pying this delicate position, he dispelled all apprehensions concerning unfavorable publicity or direct counteraction.

Andrews received the degrees of Master of Arts and Doctor of Medicine in 1852, whereupon he was appointed Lecturer on Comparative Anatomy; two years later this title was elevated to Professor. Before leaving Ann Arbor he helped found two institutions, both of which outlived him. One was the *Peninsular Journal of Medicine and Collateral Sciences*; the other was the Michigan State Medical Society.

In 1855 Rush Medical College induced Dr. Andrews to become its Lecturer on Comparative Anatomy and its Demonstrator of Anatomy. He discharged these duties with fidelity, and an energetic campaign for anatomical material again produced a satisfactory supply. Yet his sturdy independence of thought and action did not find favor with autocratic President Brainard. Hence, after three years, he resigned and immediately devoted himself to practice, which increased rapidly and was from the start mostly surgical. In collaboration with Dr. Horace Wardner a charity dispensary was established, soon to be taken over by the Medical Department of Lind University. In conjunction with the Dispensary there was a dissecting room where Dr. Andrews taught private classes of anatomy. This institution was the forerunner of what came to be, after several changes of title, the Medical Clinics of Northwestern University Medical School.

Dr. Andrews was one of the four physicians who negotiated with the Trustees of Lind University and launched its Medical Department. While still at the University of Michigan he had published several essays advocating a graded system of teaching, and the requirement of a reasonable preliminary education for admission to a medical college. Hence he required no conversion to the novel program. From the initial organization of the new school until the office became unnecessary, more than thirty years later, he acted as Treasurer of the Faculty. For over twenty years, preceding his retirement, he was Secretary of the Corporation.

From the start of the new school, Dr. Andrews held an academic appointment to the chair of the Principles and Practice of Surgery and of Clinical Surgery, which after a few years added Military Surgery to the other specifying names. In 1881 he turned over all didactic lecturing to Dr. Isham and thereafter bore the abbreviated title of Professor of Clinical Surgery, even to his retirement as Professor Emeritus in 1901. At the outset he also was appointed Surgeon-in-Chief at Mercy Hospital. For 23 years the College Building adjoined the Hospital, and during this time the only hospital surgical clinics that the students saw were his. During 46 years he occupied the professorial chair and maintained the top position on the surgical staff of the Hospital.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Dr. Andrews enlisted as surgeon of an Illinois regiment. He was first put in charge of Camp

Douglas, at Chicago, a large camp of instruction and a prison for 15,000 Confederate soldiers. Then he was appointed Surgeon of the First Illinois Light Artillery. At the front he served on the staffs of Generals Grant and Sherman, participating in the campaigns against Shiloh, Corinth, and Vicksburg. Refusing several chances for promotion that would have removed him from the battle zone, he obtained an extensive experience in military surgery. In 1864 he left the Army, broken in health by malaria and dysentery; recovery was slow, but was largely attained after two years. Andrews was the first to make and keep complete medical records of the sick and wounded in war. These were accepted by the Surgeon General and formed the basis on which the records of that office have since been kept. He also published an extensive essay on military statistics that was regarded as authoritative for many years.

Dr. Andrews was a sound surgical teacher, respected and loved by his students. He was not a fluent speaker, and made no attempt at elegance of expression. But his speech was earnest and full of power, and often was supplemented by deft drawings. Without descending to levity, he was such a skilled entertainer that one admirer dubbed him "the Rabelais of the Faculty." His clinics were often attended by many practitioners and visitors, in addition to the usual undergraduates. His appeal and drawing power are illustrated by the fact that, deciding to hold his scheduled clinic while the Chicago Fire raged at its height, most of the students ignored the unparalleled counter-attraction and attended. The Andrews method of clinical teaching was practical, and he covered broadly the principles to be emphasized. Years afterward many alumni could recall his maxims and pithy or humorous remarks. Military surgery was a topic that he liked to discuss, and he introduced lectures on the care of wounded, ambulance transportation, hospital management and similar topics. He captured the interest of the class by shooting cadavers with an army musket and then demonstrating the results by simulated operations.

For many years Dr. Andrews was the only surgeon in Chicago to limit his work exclusively to this field. He became one of America's great surgeons, not only by reason of his skill but also because of his prompt adoption of improved methods. He was a pioneer in practical antisepsis, and the first in the West to employ Lister's method after its early exploitation. He was also a pioneer in neuro-

surgery, and the first to perfect the operation of Gasserian ganglionectomy and perform it. Gradually Andrews found himself devoting an increasing amount of time to genito-urinary and orthopedic surgery, both of which challenged his mechanical skill and ingenuity. Later he deliberately turned away from orthopedics, considering it too narrow a field.

Naturally of a mechanical bent, Andrews was ingenious in inventing or adapting surgical instruments. Among his best known devices were braces for the correction of spinal curvature, an appliance for trephining and an endoscope. New methods of operation also originated with him. He was one of the first to use the freezing microtome for getting reports on tissues. The effects of modern small-bore projectiles became a matter of deep interest, and he experimented extensively with them before the Spanish-American War brought any wide experience in this field.

Dr. Andrews contributed largely and soundly to the medical literature; his total publications in science number 140. His treatise, *Rectal and Anal Surgery* (1888), passed through several editions. An important report on anesthesia, by evaluating the results in over 200,000 trials, showed the relative risk on using chloroform to be ten times that with ether. He was the first to test gas-oxygen anesthesia and to report on the results. Voluminous reports and monographs were written on injuries incurred in war.

In nonmedical spheres of activity Dr. Andrews was a geologist of repute, and also maintained an interest in archeology. While recuperating from War maladies, he spent some time in Europe and made scientific observations in Switzerland pertinent to his personal theories of glacial erosion. These publications were well received by professional geologists and brought him membership in several learned societies. Also, his published work on the early glacial history of North America gained world-wide recognition. Especially notable was a study of the terraces that made the shores of the Great Lakes, and his explanation, perhaps before Agassiz', of the origin from land glaciers of the striae on outcrops. Dr. Andrews was an artist of talent, illustrating his publications and lectures. A series of bird studies was painted. When with General Sherman, he depicted many scenes. He designed and made the block for his book plate, and once designed and constructed a church organ. An early schooling in ancient languages was maintained by making trans-

lations, and in his later years he composed poems in Latin and Greek.

In 1857 Andrews joined with others, including Davis and Johnson, in founding the Chicago Academy of Sciences, which is the oldest organization of natural science in the state. He was its first President, and other members of the Chicago Medical College also became prominent in its affairs. Although a lover of nature and outdoor life, the insistent demands on his time permitted little leisure (beyond vacations in the Georgian Bay region) in which to indulge enthusiasms for geology and other phases of natural history. In his maturity (1880) the University of Michigan honored him with the degree of Doctor of Laws.

Dr. Andrews was a member and staunch supporter of the Presbyterian Church, and a regular contributor to religious periodicals, a favorite topic being the harmony of science and religion. He married Sarah Eliza Taylor in 1853; of his five children, two sons (E. Wyllys and Frank T.) became graduates of the Medical School and prominent members of its Faculty. Later, (1877) he married Frances Barrett, the sister of his first wife. Nearing the age of eighty, Dr. Andrews was operated upon by his sons for a stone of the bladder. He bore the operation well and had practically recovered when, on January 22, 1904, a cardiac paralysis developed that was withstood for only an hour. Symptoms of valvular trouble had been discovered five years previously.

A former student, the famed Franklin H. Martin, characterized the personal attributes of Dr. Andrews as: big and hustling; a large head; bewhiskered face; generous mouth; large, kindly blue eyes; an intellectual giant, reminding one of the portraits of Charles Darwin. Another former pupil of renown, Norman Bridge, wrote: "Andrews was a great philosopher and world student." His former colleague, Professor William E. Quine, spoke of his deep laughter that shook his heavy body and compelled one to laugh with him; of his complete freedom from unfriendly or caustic words; of his modest demeanor; of his general reputation as the most learned member of his profession. Excerpts from obituaries shed more light on his greatness:

In the variety of the themes touched in his lifetime by his versatile pen, Dr. Andrews had scarcely an equal. His mind was essentially original in its reach and attainments. One of the really fine qualities of

the man was his keen discernment of the best gifts in others. He sought with the avidity of a prospector for the one little fact that he wanted and cultivated those who could aid him.

Dr. Andrews filled the chair of Surgery with a steadiness of purpose, a tireless industry, and a fidelity and skill rarely equalled. He was a clear, logical thinker, a terse, vigorous writer and lecturer, always commanding the attention of his audience, yet of a genial and kindly disposition. He was an excellent example of good citizenship and of steadfast friendship, unmixed with guile.

Edmund Andrews possessed a learning so broad and a sense of humanity so deep, that any man would have found him sympathetic, responsive and helpful. To the soldier in the Civil War he had been a brave and faithful comrade in arms. To the enthusiast in geology he appeared as a man who might have occupied with credit the chair in Geology in a great university. He was a true lover of letters and of the humanities, and might well have filled the chair of English Literature. Andrew's life was a lesson to us in reach and breadth.

WILLIAM HEATH BYFORD, A.M., M.D., LL.D.  
1817-1890

William H. Byford was born at Eaton, Ohio, on March 20, 1817. His father, a mechanic, died when William was nine. This compelled him, the oldest of three children, to leave school and go to work. When the youth was fourteen years of age and living in Vincennes, Indiana, it was determined that he should learn a trade, as had his father before him. His first choice was to become a blacksmith, but he could find no master of that craft who was willing to apprentice him. With tailors William was more fortunate and, after an indenture of six years, he was pronounced competent in this handicraft at the age of twenty. But the tailoring trade was never followed, because during these years of toil he had become fired with desire to better his rudimentary education. Whenever he could, and even at work, he studied books, both bought and borrowed. In this way the youth grounded himself in English, made excursions into the fields of natural history, physiology and chemistry, and acquired a smattering of Latin, Greek and French.

Even before the expiration of his apprenticeship, William had determined to abandon his trade and become a physician. Accord-



ingly, once free of his master, young Byford began to pursue medical studies with a local practitioner. By assiduous application his progress was so rapid that in a little more than a year, in 1838, he was examined by officials of the State of Indiana and authorized to practice medicine. For nineteen years, until 1857, he engaged in medical practice in that State. But also during this period he attended lectures at the Ohio Medical College, in Cincinnati, and received a regular diploma from that institution in 1845.



*William H. Byford*

The young physician began a teaching career at the Evansville Medical College, in Indiana, and continued there from 1850 until 1854. At first he held the chair of Anatomy, transferring in two years to the professorship of the Theory and Practice of Medicine. In 1857 he came to Chicago to fill the chair of Obstetrics and the Diseases of Women and Children at Rush Medical College, but in 1859 he resigned to accept an invitation to a similar post in the organizing Medical Department of Lind University and at Mercy Hospital. Dr. Byford remained on the Faculty for twenty years, amassing a record of distinguished service. During this period he also served as Treasurer of the Corporation of the Chicago Medical

College. In 1879 Rush recalled him by creating a special chair limited to gynecology. The reason for his taking this step was that appointments at Rush and the Woman's Medical College, close together on the West Side, could be managed conveniently, whereas posts at the Chicago Medical College and Woman's entailed too much time lost in travel. A small benefit to the Chicago Medical College from the transfer was that its department soon underwent a three-way split into obstetrics, gynecology and pediatrics.

By many in Chicago and the West, Dr. Byford was best known for his effective leadership in the founding of the Woman's Medical College in 1870 (p. 117). Besides serving as a clinical teacher in his specialty at that College, he held the twin offices of President of the Faculty and of the Trustees until his death. The founding of the Mary H. Thompson Hospital was also owing largely to his efforts and assistance. It must be emphasized that such championing of the cause of medical education for women required courage. At this period the movement was so unpopular that a proponent risked coldness, if not hostility from his colleagues.

At the annual convention of the American Medical Association, in 1857, Dr. Byford was elected Vice-President. He was conspicuous in the organization of the American Gynecological Society, was one of its first Vice-Presidents and, in 1881, was elected President. In 1878 he presided over the Chicago Gynecological Society. His first editorial experience was at Evansville with a medical journal of more than local significance. Next, Byford joined with N. S. Davis for a time in the management of *The Chicago Medical Journal* and, after the merger of this publication with *The Chicago Medical Examiner*, he became the chief editor of the combined periodicals.

Dr. Byford was a prolific writer; his pioneering textbooks demanded revisions into supplementary editions. He published, in 1864, the first medical work to come from the pen of a Chicago author. This book was entitled *Chronic Inflammation and Displacements of the Unimpregnated Uterus*. The *Practice of Medicine and Surgery, Applied to the Diseases of Women*, first appearing in 1866, was used extensively as a textbook. In 1869 came *Philosophy of Domestic Life* and, in 1872, his widely used textbook, *The Theory and Practice of Obstetrics*. Both texts were standard in their time.

Early recognition was gained by contributions to medical journals, and first by describing the operation of Caesarian section, which he performed twice in 1847. For 25 years his practice was general. Then he made a specialty of the diseases of women. His profound knowledge, broad experience and operative skill brought both fame and fortune. An immense practice during the last twenty years of his life yielded an income between \$25,000 and \$30,000 annually. A large clientele at home was augmented by constant calls for consultation and surgery throughout the northwestern states.

Endowed with an inventive faculty, Dr. Byford devised a variety of instruments used in surgery, and modified and improved others. He also introduced new methods of manipulation and treatment. Many measures in practice became associated with the Byford name. For example, his investigations on the use of ergot for the expulsion of fibroid tumors of the uterus excited marked attention at the time, and made him an authority on this method; he proposed abdominal section for ruptured extra-uterine pregnancies long before Tait captured the credit; he advocated the rectal drainage of pelvic abscesses already opened into the bowel. Some credits rightfully belonging to him have been assigned to others because he would not engage in controversies over priority. Among other exploits he performed the first operation on the stomach (1871) and the first ovariectomy (1872) ever done in Chicago.

This versatile physician was an avid reader of current medical literature, and he subscribed liberally to French and German journals. Acquaintance with the French language had been made in his youth; a reading command of German was acquired in his maturity. Among the losses incurred when home and office burned in the Chicago Fire were valuable files of many of these periodicals.

Dr. Byford married twice. By his first wife, Mary Anne Holland (1840), there were four children, one of whom (Henry T. Byford) became a prominent Chicago practitioner. A second marriage, to Lina W. Flershem (1873), resulted in one child. For several years, in late life, Byford had been conscious of the presence of a cardiac lesion, and in the early morning of May 21, 1890, he suffered the fatal attack of angina that had long been anticipated. He was then in his seventy-fourth year. Seldom have such eloquent tributes been paid by associates in the medical profession, and rarely has the Press assigned more space to the recital of the life and achievements of a physician.

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The magnificence of Dr. Byford's successes must be set against the conditions under which they were achieved. His only patrimony was physical vigor and a dogged tenacity. His education was self-conducted; he became great because he conscientiously developed the latent talents with which Nature had endowed him. "He ranked not only among the most distinguished members of his profession, but also among the most cultured and beneficent characters of his time." Some of his medical publications were unique and invaded new territory; the material had to be drawn from his own experience and study.

Standing at the top of his profession, Byford must be recognized, along with Sims, Emmett, Kimball, Peasley and Thomas, as a father of the American system of gynecology; all of these pioneers blazed their path through an untrodden wilderness. He was a ripe scholar and an intellectual giant. A commentator said: "I have found in him that education which all colleges aim to give, but which they so frequently fail to confer, namely, mental and moral power which he could use in the every-day work of life." Another wrote: "Nature did not endow him with brilliant qualities, but he had a strong mind and was capable of forming correct judgments; [he had] a patient industry and an adhesiveness of purpose which kept him during his entire life in the earnest pursuit of the worthy purposes which he had in view."

It was as a medical teacher and lecturer that Dr. Byford acquired the most conspicuous acclaim. In every teaching assignment he made a lasting impression on all who heard his instruction or saw his clinical demonstrations. Unusually popular as a lecturer, his profound knowledge did not impair his ability to make instruction plain, interesting and thorough. A contemporary wrote,

As a teacher in the lecture room, or in debate, Dr. Byford's utterances were always characterized by simplicity, clearness and pertinency. No wonder that his clinics were always overcrowded with students and practitioners, and that his slightest word invariably received a degree of attention all the more flattering because involuntary.

The encomiums to Dr. Byford's personal qualities are imposing, extolling his modest, gentle, yet impressive manner; his freedom from cynicism or pessimism; his generous spirit of helpfulness and

freedom from jealousy; his sympathy for suffering; his embodiment of the quintessence of human kindness; his strength of character and dependability. One associate held that he "had the truest heart that ever beat in sympathy with the sorrows of our life; he will live in his mercy, his righteousness, his truth and his love." Another recorded that "his nobility of character and large heart caused him to be loved over a wider section of the country and in a larger number of homes than perhaps any other member of the medical profession in this country." Still another offered the following judgment:

Thus, at 73, passed one of the noblest men of our day — an almost ideal physician and medical counselor; the pioneer of medical education for women of the West; one who could be depended upon in any emergency; a modest and strong gentleman, charitable to all and loved and admired by thousands.

What greater glory can there be than to merit such tributes?

JOHN HAMILCAR HOLLISTER, A.M., M.D.  
1824-1911

John H. Hollister, descended from early colonial stock, was born in Riga, near Rochester, New York, on August 5, 1824. Within a few years the family moved to Romeo, Michigan, which was a town north of Detroit. In 1831 his father, a civil engineer, died; John, the oldest child, was then only seven years of age. Ordinary education was obtained in the local school and academy, while higher studies were pursued at the Rochester Collegiate Institute in New York. In addition to continuing classical studies, full attention was given to the normal course. So, after graduating with honors, he returned another year and secured a teacher's certificate.

Back in Michigan, in 1842, and not yet eighteen years old, John obtained a teaching appointment in a district school eight miles from home. Here he "boarded around" among the different families as a part of his compensation. The next year he decided to study medicine, and for three more years taught school winters and studied summers with a local physician. In 1846 John entered the Berkshire Medical College at Pittsfield, Massachusetts, choosing

this school partly because the term (August to November) permitted him to continue teaching during the winter. No clinical facilities were available at this country college. On his twenty-second birthday he heard his first medical lecture, and some fifteen months later, in November, 1847, he received his medical degree. At the graduation exercises he was one of three selected to read their theses in public.

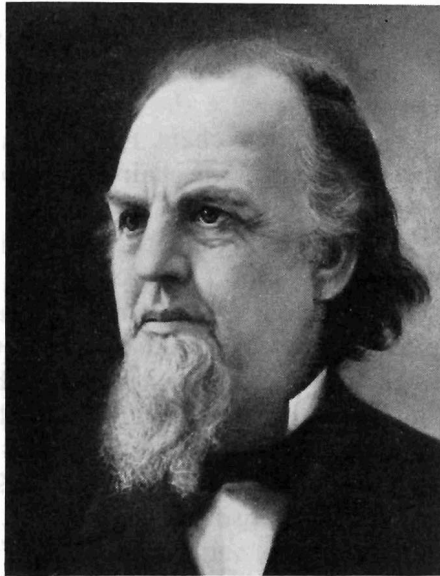
Seven years of practice, mostly in Grand Rapids, Michigan, yielded an extensive clientele and an excellent reputation. Then, through the urging of his friend Edmund Andrews, he moved to Chicago. After applying for the post of Demonstrator of Anatomy at Rush Medical College, he filled this office from 1857 to 1859, and then resigned — to cast his lot with the organizing Medical Department of Lind University. Some comments on experiences incurred by him as a Demonstrator have already been recounted (p. 308).

Originally offered the chair of Anatomy in the organizing medical college, Dr. Hollister shifted to Physiology and Histology when it seemed advantageous to secure the services of the ephemeral Titus DeVillie for the anatomical chair. Following a tenure of only one year at this post, he regained the chair of Anatomy, but this appointment merely prefaced a series of changes that extended through the next 23 years. During this time he held seven different titles, taught all of the preclinical subjects except chemistry and made a start on teaching Clinical Medicine. This record illustrates well how a competent practitioner might serve in those days as a utility teacher, assigned to any post that needed filling. Perhaps he spread himself too thin, since one writer thought him to be incoherent. The Professorship of Clinical Medicine, once acquired, was retained from 1882 until his retirement in 1895.

For many years Dr. Hollister was at Cook County Hospital, acting as chairman of the medical and surgical staff; from 1866-96 he held an appointment as physician to Mercy Hospital. He was Treasurer of the Illinois State Medical Society for 22 years, became its President in 1875 and also was elected President of the Chicago Medical Society. For eight years Dr. Hollister was a Trustee of the American Medical Association, for two years edited its *Journal*, and in 1883 presided over the Medical Section of the Association. In 1893 he became the editor of *The North American Practitioner*.

A degree of Master of Arts was awarded him by Beloit College. He was the only one of the Founders to write a biography, *Memories of Eighty Years*.

During the Civil War Dr. Hollister took charge of the medical and surgical department of the Soldiers' Home, which cared for wounded and invalid soldiers, and served as surgeon at Camp Douglas. This incurred four years of hard, unremunerated work. During the interval when Dr. Andrews was away at the front he filled-in by doing surgery at Mercy Hospital, but at the cessation of the War he resumed practice in medical fields. Nearly fifty years old at the time of the Chicago Fire, Hollister lost a valuable library of about 1,200 volumes, and all of his medical records, instruments and equipment. Unlike Byford and Isham, however, he did not lose both office and home.



*John H. Hollister*

In the period of Hollister's long life-span, medicine changed greatly. He was a student when ether was first used as an anesthetic, and was far along in his teaching experience before microbes were accepted as causative agents of disease. First antisepsis and then asepsis had entered into use as novelties and established them-



selves, the latter permanently. Avocationally, much time was given to religious work in the Congregational Church, both organizational and as a teacher of Bible classes. From the mission schools that he either founded or superintended, there developed three churches and the Plymouth Mission. The latter formed the nucleus of the great Armour Mission and its sponsored engineering school (now the Illinois Institute of Technology).

Dr. Hollister married Jennette Windiate, early on entering general practice in Michigan (1849). A daughter of this union became the wife of the eminent Dr. Franklin H. Martin. The latter has recorded his first meeting with Hollister when matriculating at the Chicago Medical College in 1877. Martin was awed by the large head, long hair, impressive face (of the Henry Ward Beecher type), ample figure, strong voice and decisive speech. All these measured up to a country youth's notion of a real professor.

Dr. Hollister retired in 1900, after 53 years in practice, and died in California on December 13, 1911, at the ripe age of 87 years. He outlived all of his associates on the Rush faculty, and all of the Founders of the forerunner of Northwestern University Medical School. Dr. Norman Bridge, recalling his own student days, wrote: "Hollister was a fine teacher and man, and was a friend of us all." On the news of his death, it was said of him: "As a practitioner, as a professor and as a man Dr. Hollister was beloved. He was always ready to give advice and help those in need, and in his death Chicago loses one of the old school, now so rare." *The Illinois Medical Journal* re-emphasized the quality that seems to epitomize the man: "No more loved character was ever connected with the Illinois profession." Professor John H. Long, who had been a colleague for twenty years, wrote,

The old family physician, the faithful friend and counselor, is a well-defined type in our American Literature, and no one of my acquaintance ever exemplified that type more clearly than did Dr. Hollister. He had the wisdom which comes from long years in healing the sick; he had the kindness of heart which every man should have who strives for the greatest success in the practice of medicine; and more than all else, he possessed that high ethical standard which made him a real Christian worker, in the best sense of that term.

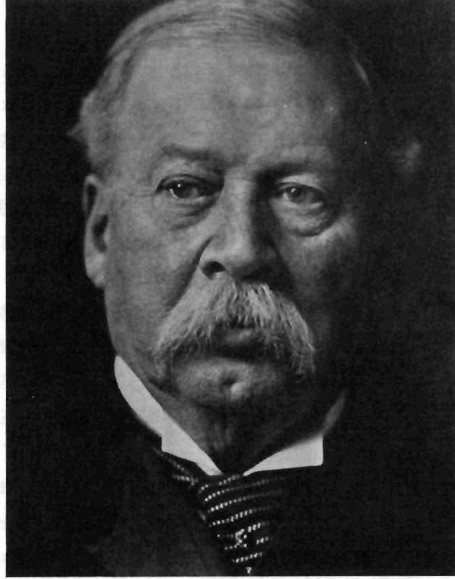
RALPH NELSON ISHAM, M.D., LL.D.  
1831-1904

Ralph Isham was born at Mannheim, near Utica, New York, on March 16, 1831, the oldest of three children of a physician. The initial "N" in his name was assumed at some time in early manhood. It has been asserted that it did not stand for Nelson, which was his father's given name. After a time the family moved to Little Falls, and each day Ralph walked eight miles to and from Herkimer Academy in another town. From boyhood he had been marked for a medical career. He first studied medicine under the famous surgeon, Dr. Valentine Mott of New York City, and then with Dr. Mott's son-in-law in Hartford, Connecticut. He next entered the University of the City of New York, otherwise known as Bellevue Hospital Medical College, and gained the medical degree in 1854.

While serving a full term as intern at Bellevue Hospital, young Isham developed tuberculosis and was advised to take a sea voyage because of poor health. Without funds for passage, he shipped as surgeon on a sailing vessel, and the voyage consumed several months. On returning to this country, the disease seemed at least to be arrested and, in fact, it never recurred in a long lifetime. Nevertheless, he was again advised to seek a cure for his pulmonary ailment by going to the great country opening up in the Northwest. Accordingly, in the autumn of 1855, he came to Chicago and started practice. The new physician gained immediate prestige by performing successfully a tracheotomy on a son of the leading Presbyterian minister. This locally unheard-of procedure had been vehemently opposed by the minister and many pious parishoners, who viewed it as a direct interference with the ways of Providence. A year after his arrival in Chicago he married Katherine Ellen Snow and, of the five children of this union, two sons and two daughters survived him. Descendants continue this physician's association with the welfare of Passavant Memorial Hospital.

It was in the office which Dr. Isham shared with Dr. Rutter, 31 years his senior, that the organizational meetings of the Medical Department of Lind University took place. In the staffing of the new school, Isham, the youngest of the group, was assigned to the chair of Surgical Anatomy and the Operations of Surgery, and was

elected as the first Recording Secretary of the Faculty. After nineteen years he was elevated to a joint occupancy of the chair dealing with the Principles and Practice of Surgery, a post formerly held by Edmund Andrews alone. This arrangement did not work out to Isham's satisfaction, so he tendered his resignation in 1881. A letter from N. S. Davis communicated the desire of the Faculty to make an arrangement by which Isham would assume a more prominent and independent role in the field of surgical teaching. Dr. Andrews



*Ralph N. Isham*

had agreed to limit his professorship to clinical surgery, and this made it possible to offer Isham a separate chair dealing with the Principles and Practice of Surgery, whereby he would handle all didactic teaching. Davis wrote: "Your manner of didactic teaching is more popular among our students than that of almost any other member of the Faculty." This evaluation was confirmed by the eminent Dr. Norman Bridge (class of 1868), who stated that Isham was one of the most satisfactory lecturers on surgery that he had ever heard.

At the outbreak of the Civil War Dr. Isham became a contract

surgeon, helped originate and organize the United States Sanitary Commission and proved to be one of its most energetic members. President Lincoln appointed him, in 1862, Surgeon in charge of the United States Marine Hospital at Chicago, temporarily used as a military hospital; he continued this responsibility until the late Seventies. On two occasions Dr. Isham went south with supplies, and in charge of enlisted physicians; one of these trips placed him on the field of battle at Shiloh. Later he became Surgeon, with the rank of Major, of the First Regiment, Illinois National Guard.

In civil life Dr. Isham held the post of Chief Surgeon of the Marine, Jewish, Passavant and County Hospitals, and Consultant at the Presbyterian, Passavant and Cook County Hospitals. He was also the Chief Surgeon of the Chicago and Northwestern Railway. This appointment required many out-of-town journeys; sometimes he had to be rushed to the scene of an accident on a special locomotive. On one occasion he saved the life of a train conductor who had been scalped by Indians. During his career Isham acquired a high reputation as a successful surgical operator. In 1881 he was sent as a delegate from the American Medical Association to the First International Medical Congress in London. Here Lister demonstrated his epochal discovery of the principle of antiseptic operation. On his return, Isham was the first in Chicago to perform such an operation.

Throughout his life Dr. Isham gave of his time and strength in free hospital work, in attending dispensaries and in teaching medical students at the College. In addition to his excellence as a teacher and surgeon, he was noted for erudition in other fields than medicine. His library, accumulated over many years, was said to be one of the largest and best selected in Chicago, and part of it came eventually to the Medical School. It specialized in complete biographical and historical collections. He held honorary membership in the New York Medical Society and was the recipient of the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from the University of the City of New York, as well as from Northwestern University.

The Ishams found time for society, and were active in the affairs of the Chicago Orchestra, the Chicago Historical Society and Central Church. Like Byford, Isham was doubly victimized by the Great Fire, losing both residence and office, as well as all belongings. But in a short time he was re-established solidly in his

highly remunerative practice. Isham remained in active practice until 1898, when he retired after 45 years spent in surgery and 39 years as a member of the Faculty. He was a wide traveler in America, Europe and the Orient. He was a devotee of golf, and had a private course at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, where his summer estate was located.

As was true of the other chief Founders of the College, Dr. Isham was a commanding figure in several walks of life. All of the Founders were exceptional men who were also favored with unusual opportunities in a rapidly growing city. Public opinion then demanded that leading physicians be men of broad interests and dignified bearing. The day of the intense specialist who might be mistaken for a business executive was yet to come. In the early years of the School all professors throughout the country wore Prince Albert coats, high "sideboard" collars and tall silk hats. When Dr. E. C. Dudley, whom the oldest alumni will remember fondly, came to Chicago to start practice in the middle Seventies, he felt obliged to conform to the custom. The Northwestern Faculty favored frock coats that buttoned to the chin, with standing collars, military fashion. The Rush professors differed by having turned-down collars. Drs. Davis and Jewell were distinctive by wearing full evening dress at all times.

On May 28, 1904, after an illness of three months, Dr. Isham died from carcinoma of the stomach. Despite his temporary poor health as a young man, he had lived to pass the seventy-third year. The greatest source of satisfaction in his declining years was the continued success of the College he had helped to organize and develop. With early dreams of accomplishment already far surpassed, came the realization that he and his colleagues had, in truth, succeeded in building better than they knew.

Near the time of his seventieth birthday, the *Chicago Tribune* printed a career-story on him, which included the following sidelight:

Dr. Isham is of portly build. He looks at one with a laughing, half quizzical eye that is scarcely an index of his genuine conservatism. He never posed as a leader, but neither has he lagged. He found time for both society and travel, and has legions of friends and myriads of acquaintances. He has had much to do with making Chicago a center of

medical learning, has had an individual place in the making of church history, and in the acquirement of a fortune has been successful.

DAVID RUTTER, M.D.: 1800-1865

David Rutter was born at Pine Forge, Pennsylvania, December 28, 1800, on land obtained by an original patent from William Penn. The so-called Mansion House was occupied, and the forge-works operated, by seven successive generations of the family.

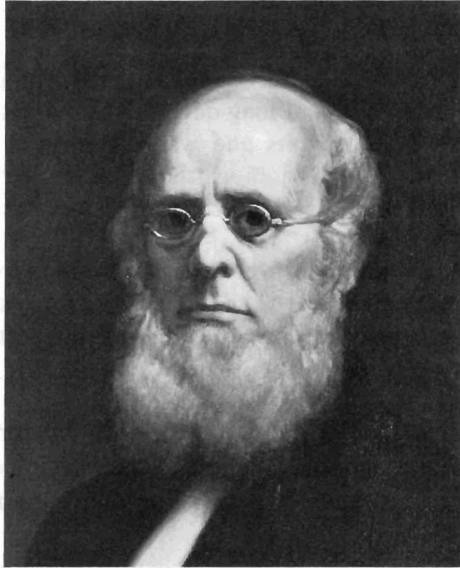
David received the M.D. degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1823. He practiced in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, for nine years and then moved to Philadelphia. Here he established a large general practice, but paid special attention to obstetrics. In 1849, finding his health impaired by the intensity of his labors, he moved to Chicago. Practice was resumed there, but in a more limited way. Nonetheless, he was engaged in constant consultations by associates who valued his diagnostic judgment. A well-earned reputation in the East followed him to Chicago, and his kindness, skill and ability quickly won for him hosts of devoted friends.

The limitation that Dr. Rutter set on his activities apparently explains why he did not figure more prominently in the affairs of the Medical Department of Lind University. Outside of acting as a participant in the initial discussions, being one of the four signers of the agreement with the Trustees of Lind University and helping with the primary organization, Dr. Rutter became inactive as soon as the first session got well under way. At the first meeting, when chairs were being assigned among the four primary organizers, he was content with the honorary title of Emeritus Professor of Obstetrics and the Diseases of Women. Possibly this acquisition of emeritus rank is unique, since as yet neither the University nor its Medical Department existed in tangible form.

Dr. Rutter married Isabella Crawford in the year following his graduation from medical school; there was one son of this union, but the mother lived only a few years. In 1837 he married Esther Turner Ryerson and had six children by this second marriage. On April 16, 1865, in his sixty-sixth year, Dr. Rutter died of apoplexy resulting from excitement and mental distress occasioned by the

assassination of President Lincoln. He had always felt strongly on public and personal affairs, and became deeply agitated over the consequences to the Nation that he feared would follow on Lincoln's death.

The demise of Dr. Rutter brought forth eulogies from the press and from his associates. A daily paper said: "In the death of this



*David Rutter*

venerable and much respected gentleman Chicago has lost one of its most worthy citizens, and the medical profession one of its leading ornaments . . . He was probably the oldest medical practitioner in the city and no one stood more deservedly high in the estimation of the members of his profession." There seems to have been something about Dr. Rutter (perhaps his balding head and snowy beard) that gave an impression of hoary venerability, because he was considered patriarchal even at 58 years, when the Medical College was organizing. It is arresting that a terminal age of 65 years seemed to qualify him as the oldest practitioner in a booming city. By contrast, the other six chief Founders exceeded his life span by eight to 22 years.

At a meeting of the members of the medical profession, assembled in City Hall to take action on Dr. Rutter's memory, N. S. Davis was chosen as chairman, and paid tribute to his worth and talents. He praised: his mind — acute, active and enlarged by liberal study; his heart — kind and sympathetic; his disposition — gentle and forgiving; and his manners — observant of professional etiquette and with courtesy to all. Formal resolutions were then drawn, in part, as follows:

“Resolved, that in his death we mourn the loss of a counsellor, wise from his ripe experience and long devotion to the duties of his profession; a friend whose precepts and whose principles we have always revered and admired, and whom we shall always cherish deeply in our memories as the wise physician, the true and steadfast friend and noble Christian gentleman.

“Resolved, that the shock which he received, and which caused his sudden death when he learned the fate of our lamented President, is a testimony to his loyalty and love of country which words are powerless to express.”

The *Chicago Medical Journal*, edited by the unforgiving President Brainard of the rival school, recognized the passing of this Founder and notable by allotting only a two-line death notice.

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These were the seven chief founders, and a sturdy and capable lot they were: the fiery iconoclast, Davis; the eloquent patrician, Johnson; the erudite scientist, Andrews; the pioneering humanitarian, Byford; the old-school physician, Hollister; the pragmatic embracer of life, Isham; the respected elder statesman, Rutter. Most of them had become physicians against odds, and only by determined, unaided efforts; they had attained a recognized standing in their profession through capability and persevering toil; they all had vision, ideals, faith, persistence, and patience; all were staking their reputations on a venture, when failure meant loss of prestige, and ridicule. Victorious knights of educational reform, the medical profession salutes you!