Historical Notes on American Gynecological Surgery

Ronald M. Cyr M.D., F.A.C.O.G.
Revised Dec 2014
Milestones in Modern Surgery

- **1840 - 1850 - Anesthesia**
  - Ether (Long 1842; Morton/Jackson 1846)
  - Nitrous Oxide (Wells 1844)
  - Chloroform (Simpson 1847)

- **1860-1880 - Antisepsis**
  - Pasteur/Koch: Germ theory
  - Lister: Antisepsis (carbolic acid)

- **Blood Transfusion**
  - Blood Types: Landsteiner 1900
  - Blood Banking: 1930s-40s

- **Antibiotics**
  - Sulfa 1930s
  - Penicillin 1940s
Pre-Anesthesia Gynecology

- “Diseases of Women” was a medical specialty, usually taught by the professor of Midwifery, along with “Disease of Children” and “Materia Medica”

- This quote summarizes the widely-held impression in the early 1850s when Sims was proposing a hospital for women:

> “The field is too small for a special hospital. Any one can apply nitrate of silver to an old ulceration through an old cylindrical speculum; and all that is needed to cure leucorrhea is an astringent injection. There is no difficulty in introducing a Physick globe pessary for prolapsus.”

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Pre-Anesthesia Surgery

- Since Antiquity lithotomy, trephination, castration practiced.
- Battlefield and farm accidents: amputations
- Abdominal surgery rare and dangerous
  - Cesarean sections reported 1500s: Rousset
  - Lithotomy: 1400s
  - Ovariectomy:
    - McDowell (Danville KY) 1809
    - Smith (Norwich VT) 1821
Ovariectomy
Pre-Anesthesia

Ephraim McDowell
1771-1830
Danville KY
1809

Nathan Smith
1762 – 1829
Norwich VT
1821

John L. Atlee
1799-1888
Lancaster PA
1843

Washington L. Atlee
1808-1878
Lancaster PA
1844

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Ephraim McDowell
1771-1830

- 1793-94 Edinburgh
- Ovariotomy 1809
  Danville KY; patient lived 32 years post-op
- Reported 3 cases 1817

Dr. McDowell planned and put into execution an operation which, though successful, brought him, at the hands of the medical profession, vituperation and violent opposition, posing him before the world as a heartless "woman-butcher." Quoting the words of the late Dr. W. L. Atlee, "he had little else than the book of nature before him, and the consciousness of right to sustain him."

With the exception of J. Marion Sims, a native of South Carolina, no physician on this continent has contributed such far-reaching and potential influence toward advancing and enriching the resources of surgical science.
Nathan Smith
1762 - 1829

- M.B Harvard 1790
- Glasgow-Edinburgh-London 1796-97
- Founder 4 medical schools
  - Dartmouth 1797
  - Yale 1813
  - Bowdoin College 1820
  - U Vermont 1821
- Ovariotomy 1821

Case of Ovarian Dropsy successfully removed by a Surgical Operation. By Dr Nathan Smith, Professor of Physic and Surgery in Yale College, Connecticut; and transmitted, at his desire, by John D. Wells, M.D. Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in Bowdoin College, in the State of Maine.

Edin Med Surg J 1822;18:532
Anesthesia

Crawford T. Long
1816-187
Georgia
Ether 1842

Horace Wells
1815-1848
Vermont
Nitrous Oxide 1844

William T. Morton
1819-1868
Massachusetts
Ether 1846

James Y. Simpson
1811-1870
Scotland
Chloroform 1847
Atlee brothers
Lancaster PA

John L Atlee
(1799–1888)

- MD U Penn 1820
- 1st ovariotomy 1843
- 78 cases by 1883

Washington L Atlee
(1808-1878)

- MD Jefferson 1829
- 1st ovariotomy 1844
- 378 more cases
- Treatise Ovariectomy 1873
- 1st myomectomy 1854

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ART. III.—Case of Exirpation of a Bilocular Ovarian Cyst by the large Peritoneal Section. By Washington L. Atlee, M.D., of Lancaster, Penn., Professor of Medical Chemistry in the Medical Department of Pennsylvania College, Philadelphia. Read before “the Lancaster City and County Medical Society,” April 17th, 1844.
# Ovariotomy

## Post-Anesthesia

**Ovariotomy in the United States.**

*(From 1853 to 1864.)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>Cured</th>
<th>Died</th>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Cases</th>
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<th>Died</th>
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<td>1854</td>
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<td>1860</td>
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<td>1856</td>
<td>11</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>1862</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>1857</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1863</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1858</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The total of the reported cases, up to 1864, is 117; of which 68, or 58.12 per cent. recovered, and 49 died.
(From January 1, 1864, to October 10, 1871.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operators</th>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>Cured</th>
<th>Died</th>
<th>Per cent. of recoveries</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atlee, W. L.</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>74</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kimball, G. (Lowell, Mass.)</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>66.11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dunlap, A. (Ohio)</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>Peaslee, E. R.</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>67.85</td>
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<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>68.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>McRuer (Maine)</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>72.72</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>66.66</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bradford, J. P. (Kentucky)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>90.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emmet</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>47.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sims, J. Marion</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>83.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miner</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>44.44</td>
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<td>Axford</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>66.66</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>75.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Green</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>62.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tewksbury (Portland)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>42.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beebe (Chicago)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>66.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hill (Augusta, Maine)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noeggerath</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>16.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith, A. G.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>60.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson (Chicago)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>75.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mussey, R. D. (Cincinnati)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>33.33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 660 cases, 453 cured, 207 died, 68.63% recoveries.

Deduct cases previous to 1864 (38) included in above table.

Total since January 1, 1864: 622 cases.
GENERAL AND DIFFERENTIAL
DIAGNOSIS
OF
OVARIAN TUMORS,
WITH
SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE OPERATION
OF
OVARIOTOMY;
AND
OCCASIONAL PATHOLOGICAL AND THERAPEU-
TICAL CONSIDERATIONS.

BY
WASHINGTON L. ATLEE, M.D.,

With Thirty-nine Illustrations.

PHILADELPHIA:
J. B. LIPPINCOTT & CO.
1873.

Washington L Atlee

TO THE MEMORY
OF
EPHRAIM McDOWELL, M.D.,
OF KENTUCKY,
THE FOUNDER OF OVARIOLOGY IN 1809;
AND TO
JOHN L. ATLEE, SR., M.D.,
OF PENNSYLVANIA,
MY BROTHER, PRECEPTOR, AND FRIEND,
WHO SINCE 1843 HAS AIDED IN ESTABLISHING THIS AMERICAN OPERATION,
I DEDICATE THIS VOLUME,
THE FRUITS OF MY EXPERIENCE AND OBSERVATION.

WASHINGTON L. ATLEE, M.D.
OVARIAN TUMORS:
THEIR
PATHOLOGY, DIAGNOSIS, AND TREATMENT,
ESPECIALLY BY

OVARIOTOMY

BY

E. RANDOLPH PEASLEE, M.D., LL.D.,
PROFESSOR OF GYNECOLOGY IN THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT OF DARTMOUTH COLLEGE; ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OF THE NEW YORK STATE WOMAN'S HOSPITAL; CONSULTING PHYSICIAN TO THE STRANGERS' HOSPITAL; CORRESPONDING FELLOW OF THE OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY OF BOSTON; HONORARY MEMBER OF THE LOUISVILLE OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY; PRESIDENT OF THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, ETC., ETC., ETC.

WITH FIFTY-SIX ILLUSTRATIONS ON WOOD.

E. RANDOLPH PEASLEE
1814-1878

TO

THE MEMORY OF

EPHRAIM McDOWELL, M.D.,
THE FATHER OF OVARIOTOMY,
AND TO

THOMAS SPENCER WELLS, ESQ.,
THE GREATEST OF OVARIOTOMISTS,
THIS VOLUME
IN RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED.

NEW YORK:
D. APPLETON & COMPANY,
650 & 651 BROADWAY.
1872
Robert Battey 1828-1895

- MD Jefferson 1858
- Paris 1859-60
- Practiced Rome GA
- Prof Obs Atlanta Med College 1872-75
- Notorious for removing normal ovaries to treat PMS
- Pioneered vaginal approach
“In these operations I have sought to effect a cure of the varied maladies complained of, by the removal, in certain instances, of an ovary viciously or abnormally performing its functions, and more frequently, by the removal of both, ovaries to put an end to ovulation entirely, and thus to determine the menopause or change of life; whereby I have hoped, through the intervention of the great nervous revolution which ordinarily accompanies the climacteric, to uproot and remove serious sexual disorders and re-establish the general health. I have done ten operations in all, of which three fall under the former and seven under the latter head.”
Early American Hospitals for Women

- Woman’s Hospital State of New York, NYC
  - 1855 J. Marion Sims

- Woman’s Hospital State of Illinois, Chicago
  - 1871 H. Reeves Jackson

- Free Hospital for Women, Boston
  - 1875 William H. Baker

- Kensington Hospital for Women, Philadelphia
  - 1883 Howard A. Kelly
Woman’s Hospital NYC - 1855

The New York Woman’s Hospital stands to-day, and always will stand, a glorious monument to the genius, energy, and humanity of J. Marion Sims.

1855

1880

1906
J. Marion Sims (1813-1883)

- MD Jefferson 1835
- VVF Fistula
- Founder Woman’s Hospital NYC 1855
- Famous in Europe
- “Father of American Gynecology”
SIMS Statue
Bryant Park NYC
1884
Vesico-vaginal Fistula Repair
(SIMS-EMMET)

- Exposure
- Excision of scar
- Mobilization of tissue
- Silver suture
Sims is remembered for the treatment of Vesico-Vaginal Fistula, and his fame in Europe was the result of this surgery. Sims attributed his success to the use of silver sutures, and described his work in an anniversary discourse in 1857.

Sims wrote little; his assistant, Thomas A. Emmet, was responsible for improving and teaching his mentor’s technique.

Emmet was careful to give Sims full credit for the idea, since Sims was notoriously prickly about his reputation; he spent much of his life feuding with Nathan Bozeman and others about priority.

His major work was devoted largely to the management of infertility; it aroused controversy in Victorian England.
Thomas A. Emmet
1828-1919

- MD Jefferson 1850
- Emigrant Refuge Hospital, Ward’s Island NYC 1850-55
- Sims’ assistant 1855-62
  Woman’s Hosp NYC
- 1862-1900 surgeon WH
- Trained a generation of surgeons
- Surgery of cervix
- Wrote influential textbooks
Vesico-Vaginal Fistula

from

Parturition and Other Causes:

with

Cases of Recto-Vaginal Fistula

by

Thomas Addis Emmet, M.D.,

Surgeon-in-Chief of the New York State Woman's Hospital, &c., &c.

New York:
William Wood & Co.
1868.

The Principles and Practice of Gynaecology

by

Thomas Addis Emmet, M.D.,

Surgeon to the Woman's Hospital of the State of New York, etc.

with One Hundred and Thirty Illustrations.

Philadelphia:
Henry C. Lea.
1879.
T. Gaillard Thomas
1831-1903

- MD Med Coll SC 1852
- Intern Bellevue NYC ‘52
- Ward’s Island under Emmet ‘53
- ‘53-’55 Paris/ Rotunda, Dublin
- ‘58-’63 Chair Obs Bellevue
- ‘65-’79 Chair ODWC CPS
- ‘68 Textbook Dis Women
- ‘72–‘87 Surgeon WH
- ‘79 Chair GYN CPS
A PRACTICAL TREATISE
ON THE
DISEASES OF WOMEN

BY
T. GAILLARD THOMAS, M.D.,

PHILADELPHIA:
HENRY C. LEA.
1865.

- Most comprehensive American GYN textbook of its time.
- Went through 6 editions and translated into many languages.
WOMAN'S HOSPITAL OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS—229 Thirty-sixth Street. Chartered September, 1871. Has capacity for twelve patients. Devoted to the treatment of diseases and accidents peculiar to women, no cases of general disease being received. Patients able to pay are charged from $7 to $15 per week. Application for admission may be made at the Hospital. It is managed by a Board of Governors.

A. Reeves Jackson
1827-1892

- MD U. Penn 1848
- Practiced 20y PA
- Chicago ’70
- Founder Woman’s Hosp IL ’71
- ’72-’77 Lect Rush Med Coll
- ’82 co-founder Chicago CPS
- Friend Mark Twain: “Innocents Abroad”
Free Hospital for Women
Boston-1875

- Founded William H. Baker, who was its surgeon-in-chief until 1907
- He was succeeded by William P. Graves
Free Hospital for Women, Boston

William H. Baker 1845-1915
- MD Harvard 1872
- ’72-’73 Intern Boston City Hospital
- ’73-’75 Woman’s Hospital NYC
- ’75 founded Free Hospital for Women; chief until 1907
- ’82 Prof Gynecology Harvard

William P. Graves 1870-1933
- MD Harvard 1899
- Studied Vienna and Johns Hopkins
- 1907-1933 Chief surgeon Free Hospital
- 1911 Prof Gynecology Harvard
Surgical Pioneers in Philadelphia

William Goodell (1829-1894)
- MD Jefferson 1854
- Surgeon Preston Retreat 1865-87
- Prof Dis Women & Child, U Penn 1874
- Excellent writer and teacher

Joseph Price (1853-1911)
- MD U Penn 1877
- Philadelphia Dispensary 1877
- Admirer Marion Sims/Emmet/Lawson Tait
- Surgeon Preston Retreat 1887-94
- Founder Philadelphia Gyncean Hospital, 1888
- Private Hosp with J.W. Kennedy 1891
- 1895 Pres AAOG

history-of-obgyn.com
His position in American gynecology was unique.

He was one of the small group of pioneers who made the gynecology of this country what it is, and he alone among these men possessed the literary faculty to a high degree.

B.C. Hirst, Goodell Obituary 1894
National Societies

- 1876 - American Gynecological Society
- 1888 - American Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (and Abdominal Surgeons)
- 1913 - American College of Surgeons
- 1930 - American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology
TRANSACTIONS OF THE AMERICAN GYNECOLOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME I

FOR THE YEAR 1876

BOSTON
PUBLISHED BY H. O. HOUGHTON AND COMPANY
Cambridge: The Riverside Press 1877

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(Elected June 3, 1876.)

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TRANSACTIONS
of
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNECOLOGISTS.
VOL. I.
FOR THE YEAR 1888.

PHILADELPHIA:
WM. J. DORAN, PRINTER. 1888.

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ALBERT VANDER VEER, ALBANY.
Howard A. Kelly 1858-1943

- The most influential gynecologist in America from 1890-1920. A complex man, a universal genius: great surgeon, great teacher, great scholar, great entrepreneur, religious zealot.

- Bold and inventive surgeon; he founded 2 private hospitals; created residency program at Johns Hopkins; his “men” are a who’s who of US gynecology; wrote numerous textbooks, almost 500 articles, an expert herpetologist and mycologist, collector of rare books, promoter of radium therapy,
Howard A. Kelly

- MD U Penn 1882
- Founded Kensington Hospital for Women 1883, at age 25
- Traveled to Europe 3 times between ’83-’88
- Joint Chair (Barton C. Hirst) ObGyn U Penn 1888
- 1st Chair ObGyn Johns Hopkins U 1889
- Established GYN residency at Hopkins
- Delegated OBS to J. Whitridge Williams 1893
- Howard Kelly hospital in Baltimore 1894
- Resigned Chair 1919
Kensington Hospital for Women
Philadelphia

Hunter Robb
(1863-1940)
- MD U Penn 1884
- Followed Kelly to Hopkins in 1889
- 1894-1914 Prof GYN
  Western Reserve, Cleveland

Charles P. Noble
(1863-1936)
- MD U Maryland 1884

- Founded 1883 Howard A. Kelly
- 6th Woman’s Hospital in USA
- Hunter Robb assistant
- Surgeon-in-chief
  - 1883-90 Howard A. Kelly
  - 1890-1910 Charles P. Noble
  - 1910-Harry P. Deaver
Ether/Chloroform Masks

Collin Chloroform Inhaler 1905

Blake Inhaler 1880

Schimmelbusch Mask Dropper bottle
Kelly & Residents
Johns Hopkins 1893

- Stavely - Resident ’92-'94
- Russell - Resident ’94-'95
- Clark - Resident ’95-'97
- Cullen - Resident ’96-'97
Johns Hopkins - late 1890s

Emma Beckwith
Max Brodel
Thomas Cullen
Elizabeth Hurdon
Ernest Stokes
John Clark
Jay Durkee
Howard Kelly
OPERATIVE GYNECOLOGY

BY

HOWARD A. KELLY, A.B., M.D.

FELLOW OF THE AMERICAN GYNECOLOGICAL SOCIETY;
PROFESSOR OF GYNECOLOGY AND OBSTETRICS IN THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY,
AND GYNECOLOGIST AND OBSTETRICIAN TO THE JOHNS HOPKINS HOSPITAL, BALTIMORE;
FORMERLY ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF OBSTETRICS IN THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA;
CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE SOCIÉTÉ OBSTÉTRICA ET GYNOLOGICA DE PARIS,
AND OF THE GESSELLSCHAFT FÜR GEBURTSHÜLFLE IN LEIPZIG

WITH TWENTY-FOUR PLATES AND OVER
FIVE HUNDRED AND FIFTY ORIGINAL ILLUSTRATIONS

VOL. I

NEW YORK
D. APPLETON AND COMPANY
1898

MEDICAL GYNECOLOGY

BY

HOWARD A. KELLY, A.B., M.D., LL.D., F.R.C.S. (Hon. Edin.)

PROFESSOR OF GYNECOLOGICAL SURGERY IN THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, AND GYNECOLOGIST TO THE JOHNS HOPKINS HOSPITAL, BALTIMORE; FELLOW OF THE AMERICAN GYNECOLOGICAL SOCIETY; HONORARY FELLOW OF THE EDINBURGH OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY; HONORARY FELLOW ROYAL ACADEMY OF MEDICINE IN IRELAND; FELLOW BRITISH GYNECOLOGICAL SOCIETY; HONORARY FELLOW GLASGOW OBSTETRICAL AND GYNECOLOGICAL SOCIETY; HONORARY MEMBER OF THE ROYAL MEDICAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH; CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE GESSELLSCHAFT FÜR GEBURTSHÜLFLE IN LEIPZIG; EREMITAT FÜR DIE GESSELLSCHAFT FÜR GEBURTSHÜLFLE IN WENZ; MEMBERS ASSOCIÉ ÉTRANGER, SOCIÉTÉ D'OBSTÉTRIQUE, DE GYNOLOGIE ET DE PÉDIATRIE DE PARIS; MEMBRE CORRESPONDANT ÉTRANGER DE LA SOCIÉTÉ DE CHIRURGIE DE PARIS; MEMBRE DE L'ASSOCIATION FRANÇAISE D'UROLOGIE, PARIS; MEM. HON. SOCIETÀ ITALIANA DI OBSTETRICA E GINECOLOGIA, ROMA, ETC., ETC.

WITH ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-THREE ILLUSTRATIONS
FOR THE MOST PART BY MAX BROEDEL AND A. HORN

NEW YORK AND LONDON
D. APPLETON AND COMPANY
1908
THE VERMIFORM APPENDIX AND ITS DISEASES

BY

HOWARD A. KELLY, A.B., M.D.
PROFESSOR OF GYNECOLOGY IN THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, BALTIMORE

AND

E. HURDON, M.D.
ASSISTANT IN GYNECOLOGY IN THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, BALTIMORE

WITH 399 ORIGINAL ILLUSTRATIONS, SOME IN COLORS, AND 3 LITHOGRAPHIC PLATES

PHILADELPHIA AND LONDON
W. B. SAUNDERS AND COMPANY
1905

GYNECOLOGY AND ABDOMINAL SURGERY

EDITED BY

HOWARD A. KELLY, M.D., F.R.C.S. (HON. EDIN.)
PROFESSOR OF GYNECOLOGIC SURGERY AT THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY; GYNECOLOGIST TO THE JOHNS HOPKINS HOSPITAL, BALTIMORE

AND

CHARLES P. NOBLE, M.D.
CLINICAL PROFESSOR OF GYNECOLOGY AT THE WOMAN'S MEDICAL COLLEGE, PHILADELPHIA; SURGEON-IN-CHIEF, KENSINGTON HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN, PHILADELPHIA

Illustrated by Hermann Becker
Max Brödel and Others

VOLUME ONE

PHILADELPHIA AND LONDON
W. B. SAUNDERS COMPANY
1907
Kelly Residents

Many of Kelly’s residents became influential gynecologists in their own right. Some stayed at Hopkins, others became leaders at other institutions:

- Hunter Robb (1892) Cleveland
- John G. Clark (1897) Philadelphia
- Benjamin R. Schenk (1903) Detroit
- John A. Sampson (1904) Albany
- Stephen Rushmore (1906) Boston
Thomas S. Cullen 1868-1953

- M.D. Toronto 1890
- Kelly Resident 1892-97
- Johns Hopkins Chief GYN 1919-39
EMBRYOLOGY, ANATOMY, AND DISEASES
OF THE
UMBILICUS
TOGETHER WITH
DISEASES OF THE URACHUS

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