
WALTER WILLIAM CHIPMAN
1867-1950

WALTER WILLIAM CHIPMAN died on April 4, 1950, at his home after an illness of more than a year's duration. Canada and the medical world generally have suffered the loss of a distinguished and much beloved physician.

Born in Bridgetown, Nova Scotia, in 1867, Walter Chipman received his primary education in the schools of his native province, graduating in Arts from Acadia University in 1890. He then took the medical course in Edinburgh University, graduating in 1895 as the Buchanan Scholar. Five years of graduate training followed in the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, Royal Maternity Hospital, and Bolton Infirmary. It was during these years in Edinburgh that he came under the influence of Simpson, Berry, Hart, and Barbour. These were the men who largely determined his selection of obstetrics and gynecology as a life work. The doctorate of medicine was granted in 1900.

The results of important researches on the structure of the placenta were published at this time as a monograph.

In 1900 Dr. Chipman was invited by Dr. William Gardner to Montreal where he joined the faculty of medicine as a demonstrator in gynecology with an appointment as a member of the staff of the Royal Victoria Hospital. This was the beginning of a distinguished career in the practice of medicine which was to lead to the professorship of gynaecology in 1910, the combined professorship of obstetrics and gynaecology in 1912, appointment as Surgeon-in-Chief of the Royal Victoria Montreal Maternity Hospital, and finally the emeritus professorship in 1929 on retirement from active teaching.

Always deeply interested in every phase of medicine, Dr. Chipman, by his wise counsel and help, furthered the cause of research, encouraged the promotion of schemes for the improvement of graduate training, ever mindful of the importance of developing younger men, and, like Osler before him, he never failed to emphasize the place of the bedside in clinical teaching. An outstanding teacher who won and held the affection of countless generations of students, Dr. Chipman did much to enhance the reputation of the Medical School. A man with a commanding presence, always ready with an appropriate quotation or a well-turned sentence, his lecture theater was a mecca for the students, who derived much of value from the philosophical utterances of this scholarly gentleman.

At a time in North American Universities when obstetrics and gynecology often existed as separate departments, it became apparent to him that the teaching and practice of these specialties could be materially strengthened by merging them into a single unit both in university and hospital, easing the

problems of administration and greatly improving the teaching of student and graduate. To the furtherance of this ideal he devoted his great talents and ultimately succeeded in creating the new department of obstetrics and gynaecology. The natural outcome was the fusion of the old Montreal Maternity Hospital with the department of gynaecology at the Royal Victoria Hospital, and finally the crowning achievement of his life, the erection of the Women's Pavilion, a worthy tribute of the citizens of Montreal to a much respected physician.

A wise clinician, skillful surgeon, and a gifted speaker, Dr. Chipman became widely known far beyond his native land. Few medical men have been so universally honored. He was elected a member of the American Gynecological Society in 1903; President in 1921; a member of the Council 1922-1925, and a Life Fellow in 1935. He was one of the Founders, first Vice-President and later President of the American College of Surgeons, a Foundation Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of England and chairman of the advisory committee in Canada; Honorary Fellow of the Edinburgh Obstetrical Society and President of the Montreal Medico-Chirurgical Society.

He was granted honorary degrees from Acadia University, Pittsburgh University, University of Wales, Dalhousie University, and Bishops College.

Following retirement from active practice Dr. Chipman was elected a governor of McGill University and of the Royal Victoria Hospital, presiding as president of the latter institution during the difficult war years. The mature judgment and wise counsel born of a lifetime's experience in medicine was of inestimable value to both institutions.

Students, confreres, patients, and the many friends in the world at large will always remember Dr. Chipman as an accomplished teacher, a skillful surgeon, and a cultured gentleman.

John R. Fraser.

BY A. D. CAMPBELL, MONTREAL, QUEBEC

In the passing of Dr. Walter William Chipman on April 4, 1950, one of the giant oaks of the medical profession has fallen. To those of us who knew him for nearly half a century, he was regarded as a tower of strength, a wise counselor. He was gifted with a natural approach to the many problems which confronted him. As a rule, he would give his answer with a questioning nod, a single word of approval or a mild, well-turned but searching question.

Born in Bridgetown, Nova Scotia, Canada, January 1, 1867, Walter William Chipman there received his primary education, graduating in Arts from Acadia University in 1890. He at once embarked on the study of medicine at Edinburgh University graduating with high distinction and winning the Buchanan Scholarship in 1896. From that time until 1900, he continued graduate studies in the Royal Infirmary and in the Royal Maternity Hospital in Edinburgh, upon the completion of which he was granted a Doctorate in Medicine. In 1900, Dr. Chipman was invited to Montreal to join the teaching staff of McGill University as demonstrator and assistant in the Department of Gynaecology in the Royal Victoria Hospital.

The influence of his Edinburgh training at once became quite apparent, for he transplanted into McGill much of its teaching as well as that gained from the atmosphere of that famous school of learning. In 1910, he was appointed Professor of Gynaecology and later to the then recently combined chairs of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, McGill University. Upon his retirement from this Chair in 1929, he was created Professor Emeritus.

Dr. Chipman's lectures were philosophical and often flavored with anecdotes or pertinent aphorisms which have never been forgotten by those who as students had the good fortune to attend them. Throughout his teaching life, he was particularly interested in the advancement of medical education both graduate and undergraduate. Within a month of his death, he signed the application for the chartering of the Montreal Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society. This bears witness that to the

last he had a keen interest in the organization of the medical profession and, more particularly, his specialty.

Dr. Chipman did not confine his studies entirely to that of medicine. He was a life-long member of the St. James Literary Society, in which he always showed keen interest. He was a profound student of Mary Queen of Scots, on whose life and times he was an authority. His lectures on this sad figure in history, as with those on Rosetti and his contemporaries, were rare treats.

This colorful, scholarly, gentleman, teacher, surgeon and gracious host was honored by his contemporaries as few have been so honored. He was one of the founders of the American College of Surgeons and later its President, a foundation Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (Great Britain) and chairman of its Canadian advisory committee; President of the American Gynaecological Society; President of the Montreal Medico-Chirurgical Society; Honorary Fellow of the American Association of Obstetricians, Gynaecologists and Abdominal Surgeons; first Honorary Fellow of the Montreal Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society; first Honorary Fellow of the Canadian Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and Honorary Fellow of the Edinburgh Obstetrical Society. He was granted honorary degrees from Acadia University, Pittsburgh University, University of Wales, Dalhousie University, Bishop's University and McGill University. He was for years a Governor of the University of his adoption. It was unique, though seemingly natural, that he should have been elected President of the Royal Victoria Hospital to which institution he devoted so many years of his full life.

This Christian gentleman was a link with the past. His influence did much to fashion the pattern of our specialty. Fittingly, at his simple Presbyterian funeral, the text chosen was from Ecclesiasticus—"Let us now praise famous men."