

IN MEMORIAM

C. JEFF MILLER
1874-1936

JEFF MILLER was born on February 9, 1874, at Winchester, Tennessee. He received his preliminary education at Terrill College, Tennessee, attended the University of the South, at Sewanee, and was graduated from the medical department of the University of Tennessee in 1893.

After an interneship at the Nashville City Hospital in 1894, Doctor Miller moved to New Orleans, where he soon became widely known. He was chosen Professor and head of the Department of Gynecology at Tulane University in 1911, which position he held until his death. He was also chief of the Gynecological Services at the Charity Hospital and at the Touro Infirmary, New Orleans.

He was married to Ada Parker of Memphis, Tennessee, in 1896 and in 1912 their only child, Elizabeth, was born.

Many honors came to Jeff Miller, and he bore them all modestly. He was chairman of the Section on Obstetrics, Gynecology and Abdominal Surgery of the American Medical Association in 1912. He was president of the Southern Surgical Association in 1922, president of the American Gynecological Society in 1929, and president of the American College of Surgeons in 1930. In 1930 he also received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science from his Alma Mater, Sewanee. His last-bestowed honor was the presidency of the Southeastern Surgical Congress, in 1936.

He was a major in the Medical Corps during the World War.

Jeff Miller was a student, a scholar, a man of rare personal charm, good balance and excellent judgment, soft-spoken, gentle yet withal determined, one of the best known and most respected of all members of the American medical profession. Gynecology lost one of her most distinguished members in his death. His excellent contributions to our specialty, written in faultless English, and delivered in modulated resonant tones, will leave a lasting imprint on the memories of all who were privileged to hear him.

Doctor Miller was not only a lover of good literature and an omnivorous reader, but was gifted with a remarkable facility and grace of expression in his own writings. The author of two textbooks, *An Introduction to Gynecology* and *Clinical Gynecology*, as well as a large number

of excellent scientific papers, his chief interest and his greatest gift were centered in literary composition. Had he been spared, he would unquestionably have become noted for his masterful word pictures and personal sketches. It is the irony of fate that two of our greatest, Jeff Miller and William P. Graves, should have been torn from us at this time. Men of the same age, possessed of unusual energy and tenacity of purpose, zealously devoted to their work, endowed with deeply esthetic temperaments and rare literary taste and ability, both promised to outdo their professional careers by their literary accomplishments of later years.

We miss Jeff Miller—his furrowed somewhat sad and wistful face, his broad and kindly smile, his quiet manner, his deep-toned low-pitched resonant Southern voice, his anecdotes, his love of life and living things and of his work, to which he gave his best.

Arthur H. Curtis.

C. JEFF MILLER

ON March 21, 1936, America lost one of her most distinguished surgeons and magnetic personalities in the death of Dr. C. Jeff Miller. Dr. Miller, a true son of the South, represented the ultimate in medicine, the science of which was greatly benefited because of his having lived. In addition to his professional attainments probably no physician ever meant as much to a community, either locally or regionally, in a non-professional way than Dr. Miller. His intense interest in the welfare of humanity is illustrated by the fact that he repeatedly took time from his busy teaching and clinical activities to head Community Chest Drives and other similar movements. Not only was his surgical judgment unsurpassed, but also his broad vision and keen insight made his presence on many lay boards of inestimable value.

Dr. Miller's education was that of the greatest scholar, as, in addition to his profound knowledge of medicine, he was a connoisseur of music, literature, and art. Some of his happiest hours were spent in his library engrossed in J. M. Barrie, Robert Burns, Osler, and Moynihan.

As a teacher he was unsurpassed, primarily because of his profound knowledge of the subject and also because of his lucid and superb presentations. Even during the most trying operative procedures he lectured clearly, and his operative clinics were always filled to their maximum capacity.

His ability as an executive is exemplified by the organization of his own departments and the great influence he exerted on the many boards on which he served. Often after many hours of heated controversy in which he took no part the question would be quickly settled by his logical deductions.

Those who knew Dr. Miller could understand the devotion of his patients with whom he shared so freely his wise and generous counsel. He always imparted comfort and reassurance to patient and family in the soft tones of his modulated voice.

Dr. Miller was born on February 9, 1874, in Winchester, Tennessee, the son of Charles J. and Elizabeth Johnston Miller. He attended and was graduated from the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee. His early ambition to study medicine was undoubtedly kindled during his stay with his uncle, Thaddeus Johnston, a country physician. He received his M.D. degree from the University

of Tennessee in 1893 and interned at the Nashville City Hospital in 1894. On January 30, 1896, he married Ada Parker, of Memphis, Tennessee, and in 1912 their only daughter, Elizabeth, was born. From 1899 to 1904 he served as chief of clinics at the Charity Hospital, New Orleans, under Dr. Ernest S. Lewis. In 1911 Dr. Miller became professor of gynecology at Tulane University, which position he held until his death. He was chief of the Gynecological Services at the Charity Hospital and Touro Infirmary, New Orleans.

Dr. Miller was officer of many organizations. He served both as secretary and as president of the Orleans Parish Medical Society. From 1926 to 1936 he was a member of the Board of Regents of the American College of Surgeons and was president in 1930-1931; in 1912 he was chairman of the Section on Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Abdominal Surgery of the American Medical Association; president of the Gynecological Club in 1927; president, American Gynecological Society, 1928-1929; president of the Southern Surgical Association in 1922; president of the Southeastern Surgical Congress in 1936; and president of the Howard Memorial Library, New Orleans. During the World War Dr. Miller was a Major in the Medical Corps.

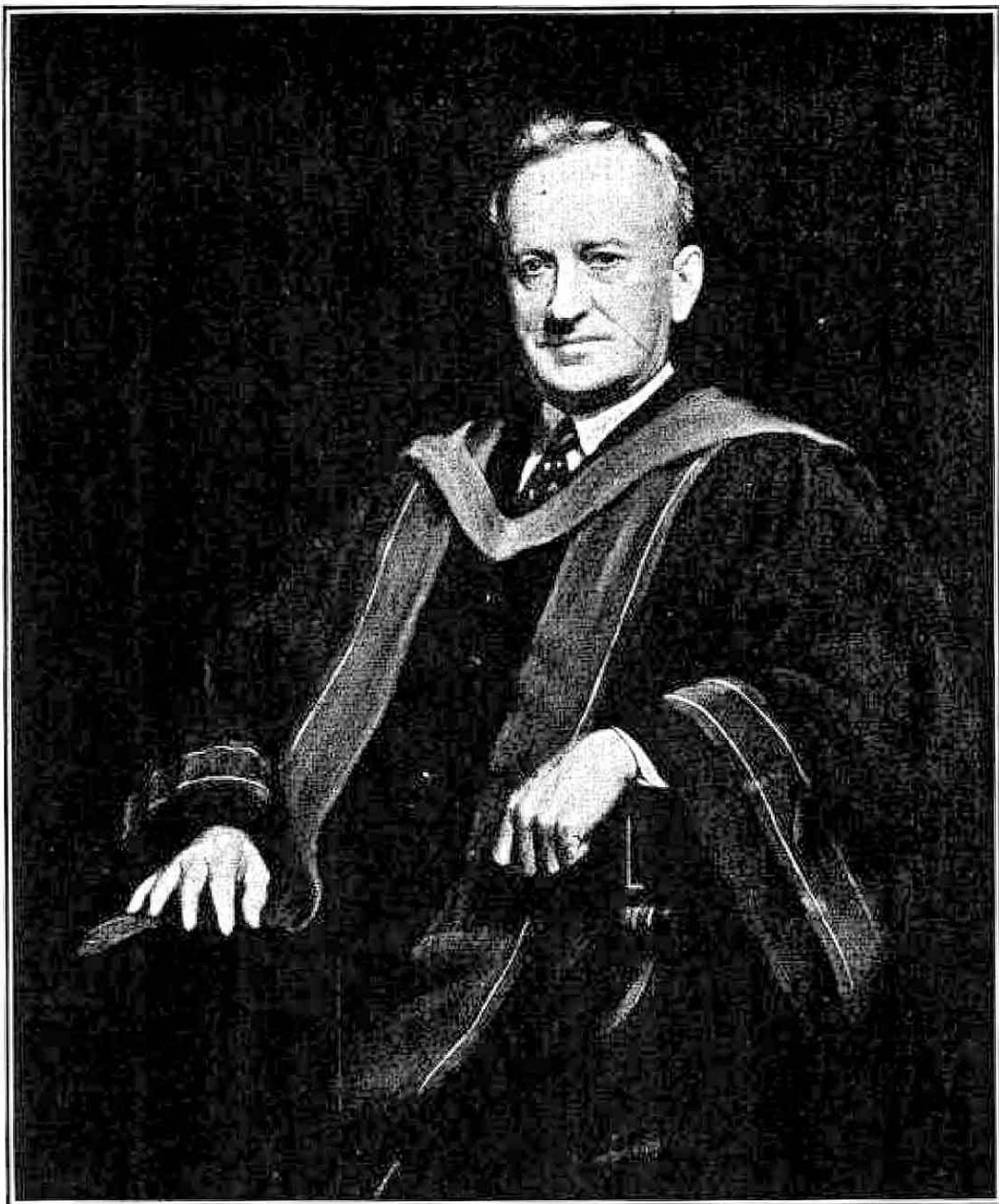
In June, 1930, he received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science from his Alma Mater, Sewanee. He was author of two textbooks, *An Introduction to Gynecology* and *Clinical Gynecology* as well as of innumerable articles on scientific subjects.

Dr. Miller was truly a Southern gentleman and in every way typified Jeffersonian principles. He had the pioneering instinct of Lister, the judgment of Solomon, the technique of Halsted, the tenderness of Florence Nightingale, the perceptive powers of Osler, the determination of Noguchi, and practiced the ethics of Hippocrates.

ALTON OCHSNER.



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