

# History of the History of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department at the University of Michigan

Ronald M. Cyr M.D.

Norman F. Miller

Gynecologic Society

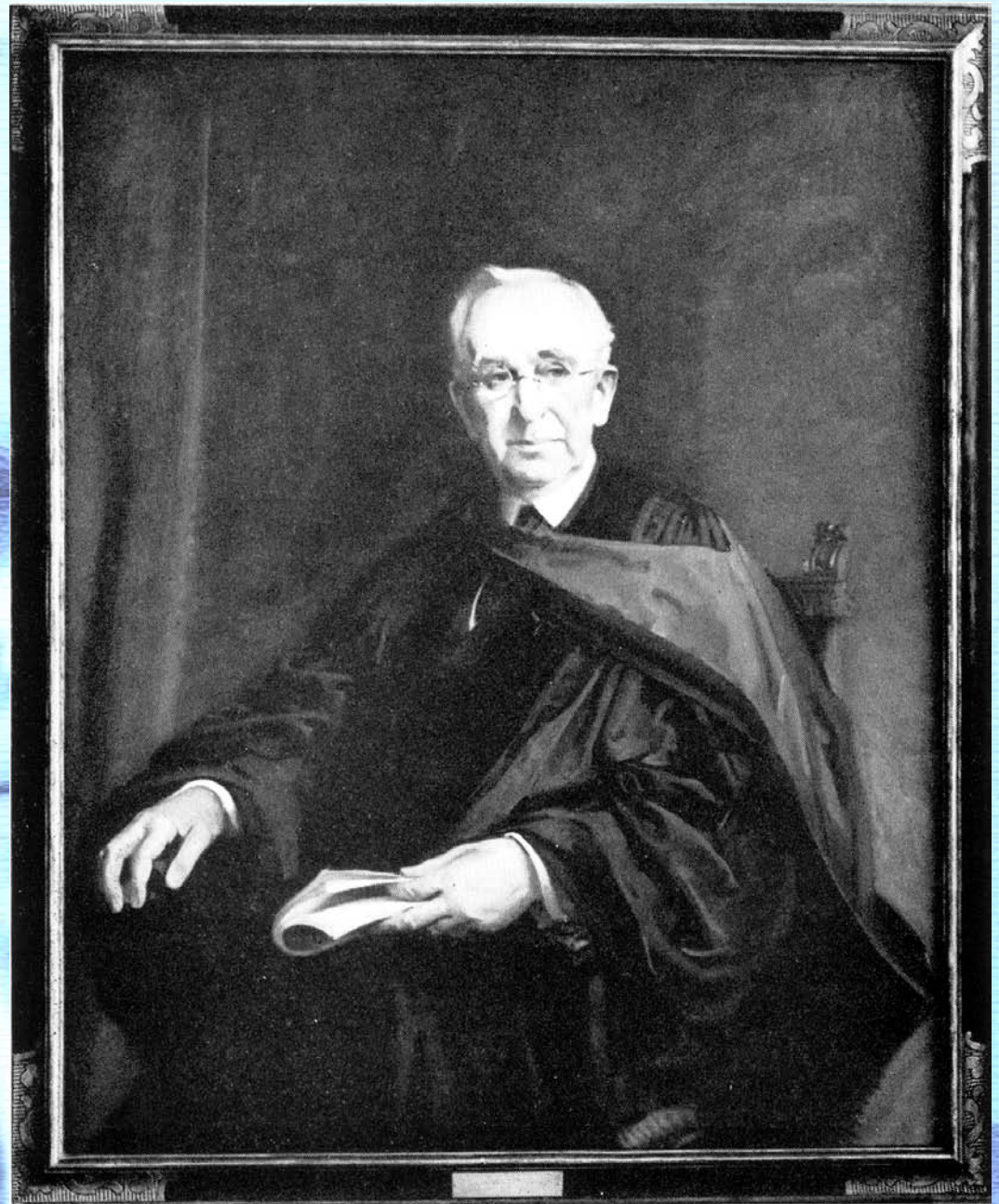
Annual Meeting 2002

N. F. Miller 1943

Reuben Peterson

Chairman

1901 - 1931



N. F. Miller 1943

A faded, blue-tinted portrait of a man with glasses, wearing a suit and tie, serves as the background for the slide. The man is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression.

## HISTORY SOURCES

### BENTLEY HISTORICAL LIBRARY, U of MICHIGAN

- Dunster, Edward Swift: Chairman 1874-1888, Papers
- Peterson, Reuben: Chairman 1901-1931 Papers
- Ob/Gyn Department: 8 boxes, 1901-1993
- Willson, J. Robert: Chairman 1964-1978, Papers
- Gosling, John R.: Ob/Gyn 1956-1986, Papers
- U of M Deans' Files

## **Peterson, Reuben:**

- "EDWARD SWIFT DUNSTER, A.M., M.D., A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH" – Founders' Day Lecture 1905
- History of the University Medical School. Unpublished draft in his papers

## **Hinsdale, Burke A.:**

- "History of the U of Michigan" 1906; SAGER biography

## **Andros, George:**

- "The New University Hospital" in U of M Medical Bulletin, 1950

## **Shaw, Wilfred B. (Ed):**

- "The U of Michigan-An Encyclopedic Survey" 1951

## **Miller, Norman F.:**

- "Reuben Peterson: Protagonist of Modern Obstetrics and Gynecology" 1961 - biography
- "Some Women in my life and I" 1975-autobiography



**Stander, Richard W. and Pearse, Warren H.:**

- "Obstetrics, Gynecology and the University of Michigan" 1964

**Davenport, Horace W.:**

- "University of Michigan Surgeons 1850-1970", 1993
- "Victor Vaughan: Statesman and Scientist" 1996
- "Not Just any Medical School" 1999

**Markell, Howard and Janet Tarolli (ed):**

- "Caring for Children" 1998; Chapter on "Bates Professorship" by T. Johnson

**Bass, Christine K.:**

- "Women's Experiences as Patients at Peterson's Hospital, Ann Arbor, 1902-1933" Ph.D. Thesis 1999

**University Hospital Bulletin: 1935-1981**

N. F. Miller 1943

OBSTETRICS, GYNECOLOGY  
AND THE  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



Warren Pearse  
(1950-56)

Richard Stander  
(1951-57)

**RICHARD W. STANDER, M.D.**

Professor and Chairman, Department of Obstetrics  
and Gynecology, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine

*and*

**WARREN H. PEARSE, M.D.**

Professor and Chairman, Department of Obstetrics  
and Gynecology, University of Nebraska College of Medicine

# EDWARD SWIFT DUNSTER, A.M., M.D.

## A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

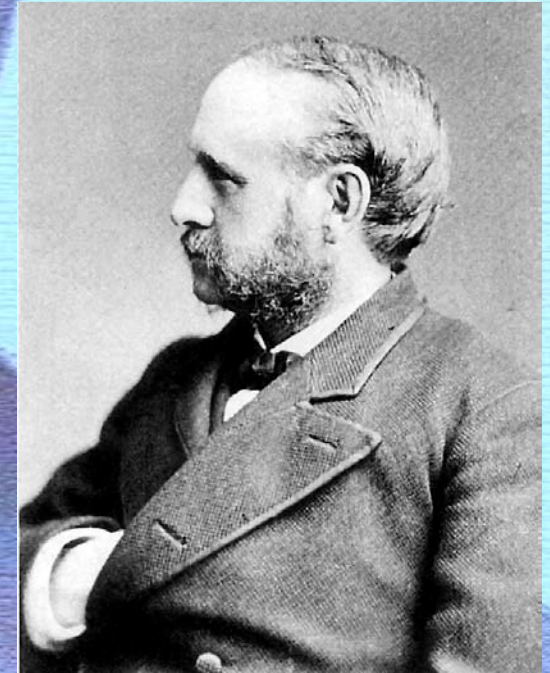
By REUBEN PETERSON, A. B., M. D.,

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

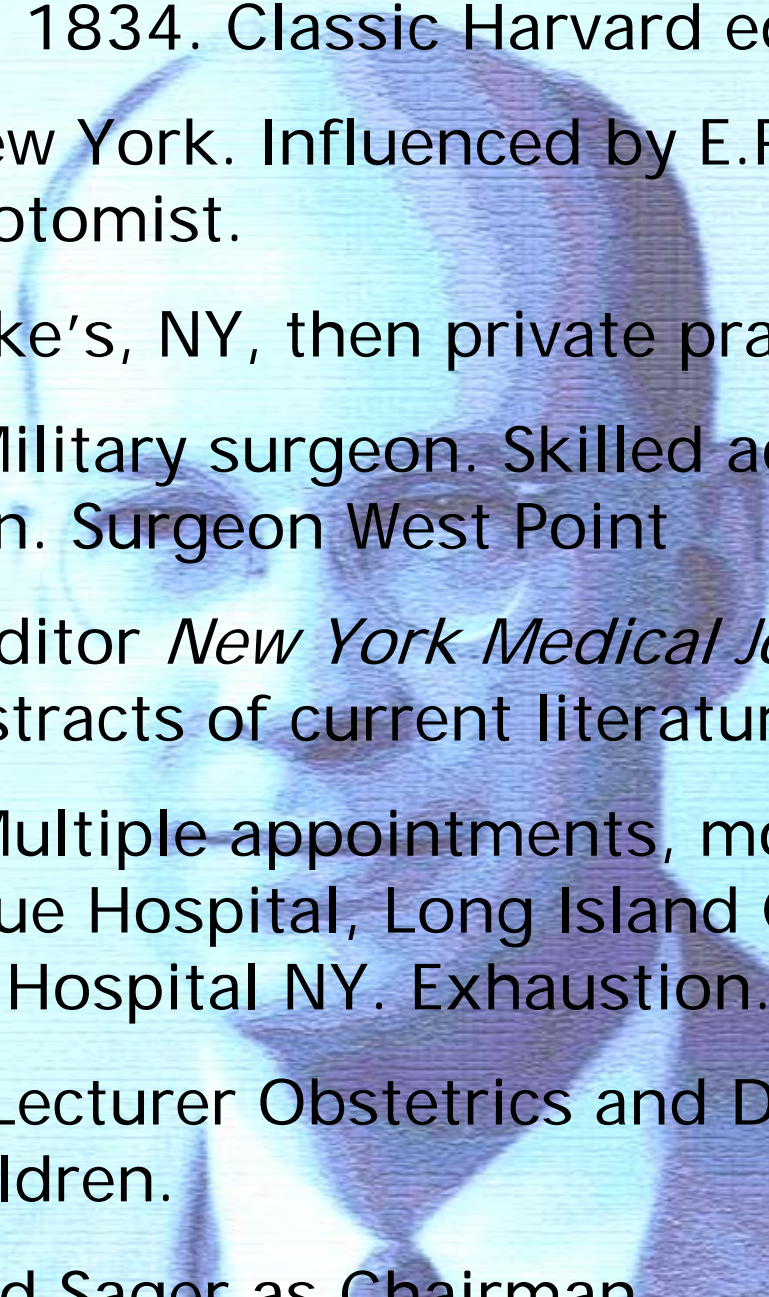


Chairman

1874 - 1888

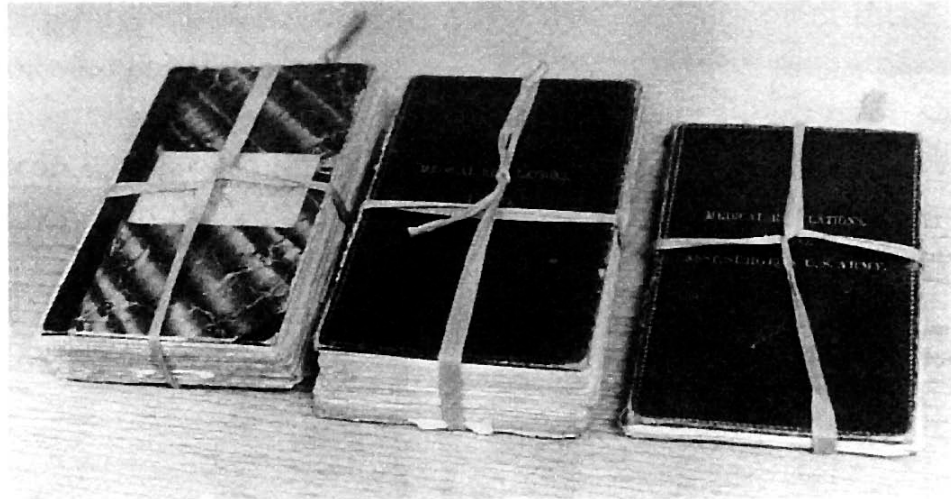


N. F. Miller 1943

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- A faint, blue-tinted portrait of a man with a mustache, wearing a suit and tie, is visible in the background of the slide. The man is looking slightly to the right of the camera.
- Born in Maine, 1834. Classic Harvard education.
  - M.D. 1859, New York. Influenced by E.R. Peaslee, renowned ovariectomist.
  - Interned St Luke's, NY, then private practice.
  - 1861-1866: Military surgeon. Skilled administrator. Rapid promotion. Surgeon West Point
  - 1866-1871: Editor *New York Medical Journal*. Inaugurated abstracts of current literature.
  - 1866-1872: Multiple appointments, mostly Children's diseases, Bellevue Hospital, Long Island College Hospital, Infant Hospital NY. Exhaustion.
  - 1873: U of M Lecturer Obstetrics and Disease of Women and Children.
  - 1874: Replaced Sager as Chairman



- Acquired reputation as brilliant lecturer.
- Despite skill as writer, published only 15 papers.
- Died pneumonia 1888, age 54



*Lecture notes of Edward Dunster. Left and center, thick volumes on women's medicine; right, thin volume on children's medicine. (Courtesy of the Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan.)*

- In 1935 his children endowed the *Dunster Scholarship* to support a needy and worthy medical student.

# Caring for Children



**A Celebration of the Department of Pediatrics and  
Communicable Diseases at the University of Michigan**

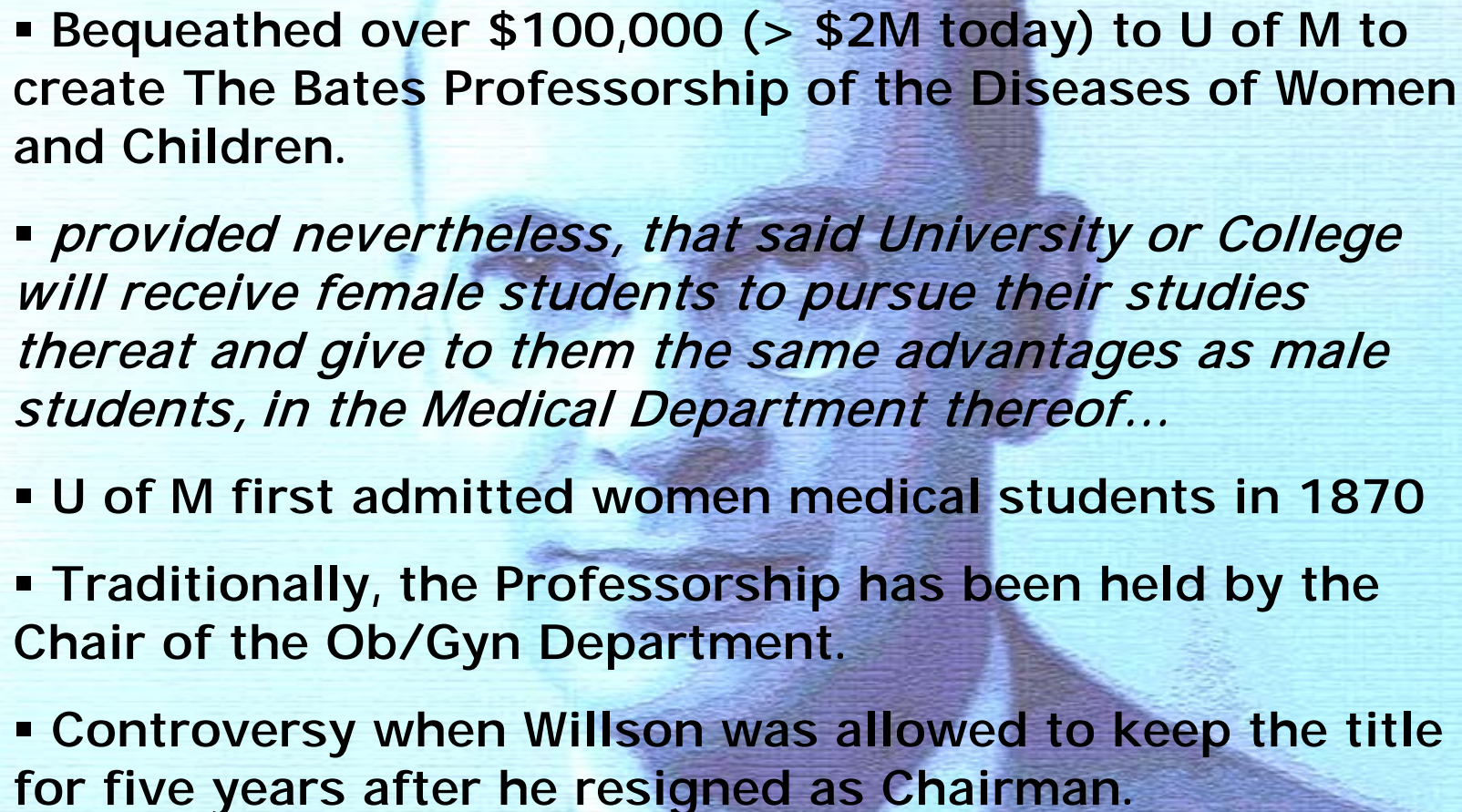
**Edited by  
Howard Markel and Janet Tarolli**

# Doctor Elizabeth Bates and the Bates Professorship of the Diseases of Women and Children

Timothy R. B. Johnson, MD



N. F. Miller 1943

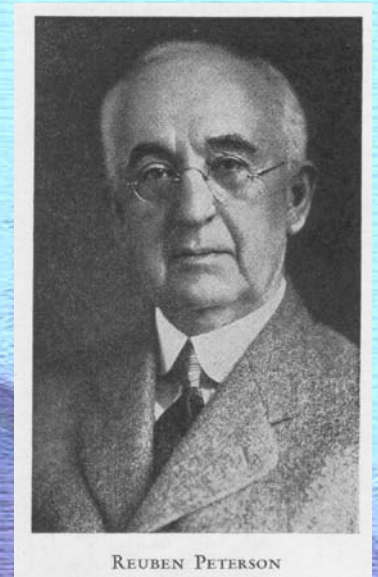
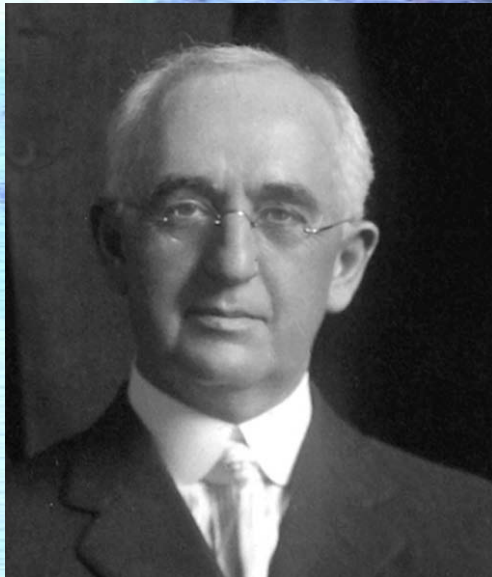
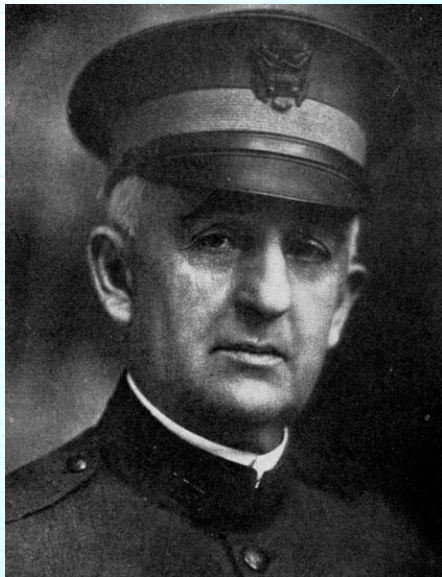
- 
- Bequeathed over \$100,000 (> \$2M today) to U of M to create The Bates Professorship of the Diseases of Women and Children.
  - *provided nevertheless, that said University or College will receive female students to pursue their studies thereat and give to them the same advantages as male students, in the Medical Department thereof...*
  - U of M first admitted women medical students in 1870
  - Traditionally, the Professorship has been held by the Chair of the Ob/Gyn Department.
  - Controversy when Willson was allowed to keep the title for five years after he resigned as Chairman.

'IT DID NOT SEEM LIKE A HOSPITAL IT SEEMED LIKE HOME':  
WOMEN'S EXPERIENCES AS PATIENTS AT PETERSON'S HOSPITAL,  
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN, 1902-1933

by

Christine Kae Bass

A dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment  
of the requirement for the degree of  
Doctor of Philosophy  
(American Culture)  
in The University of Michigan  
1999



N. F. Miller 1943



Fig. 18-2. Peterson Hospital nursing class. (Courtesy of Dr. Linda Strodman.)

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
*Medical Bulletin*

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February 1950

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The New University Maternity Hospital

GEORGE J. ANDROS, M.D.

**George J. Andros (UM 1941-1945)**

- Asst Prof UM '49-'51
- Assoc Prof Chicago '51-'70
- Prof/Assoc Chair, Jefferson Medical College
- Uterine physiology / regional anesthesia



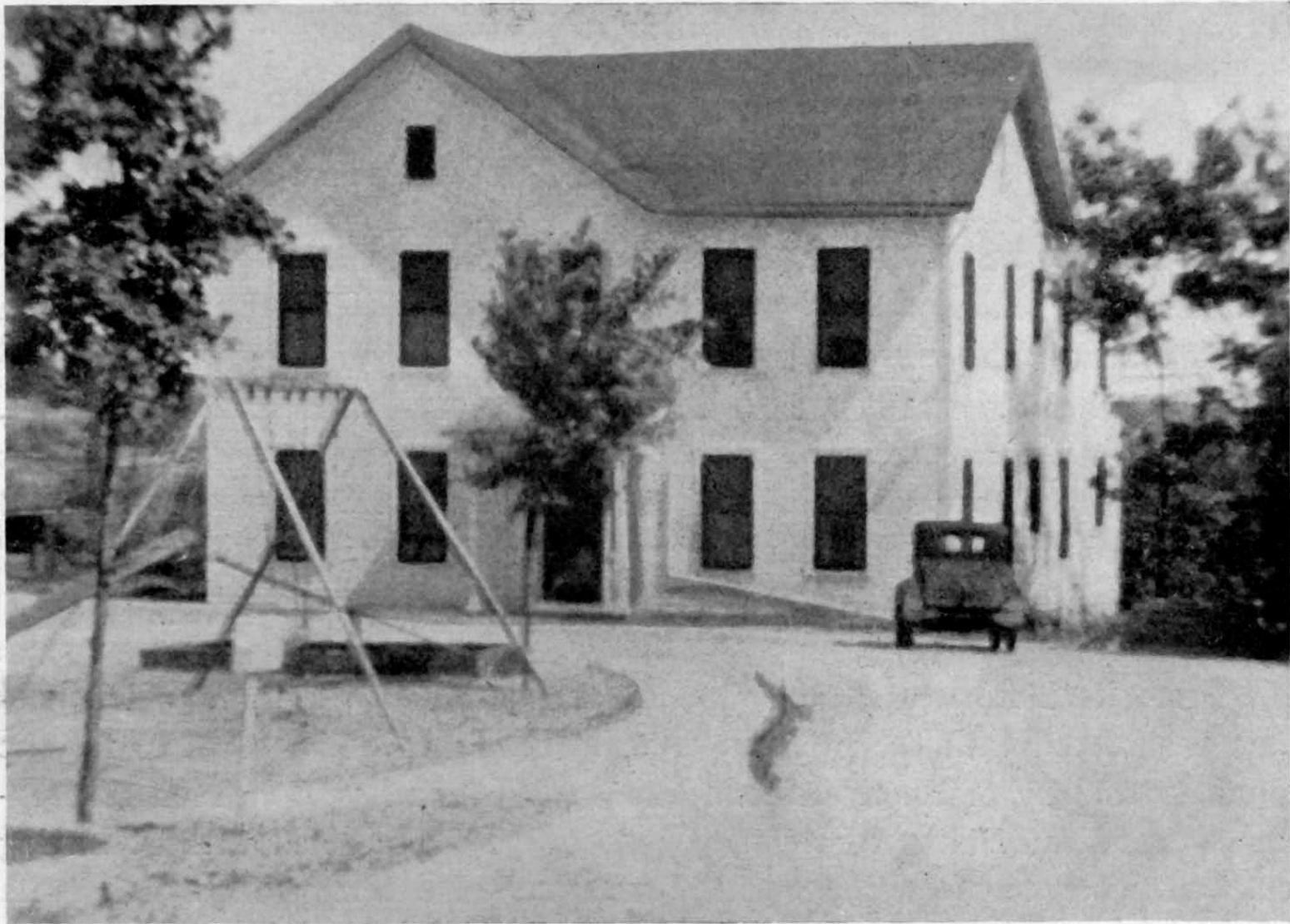
GEORGE J. ANDROS

N. F. Miller 1943

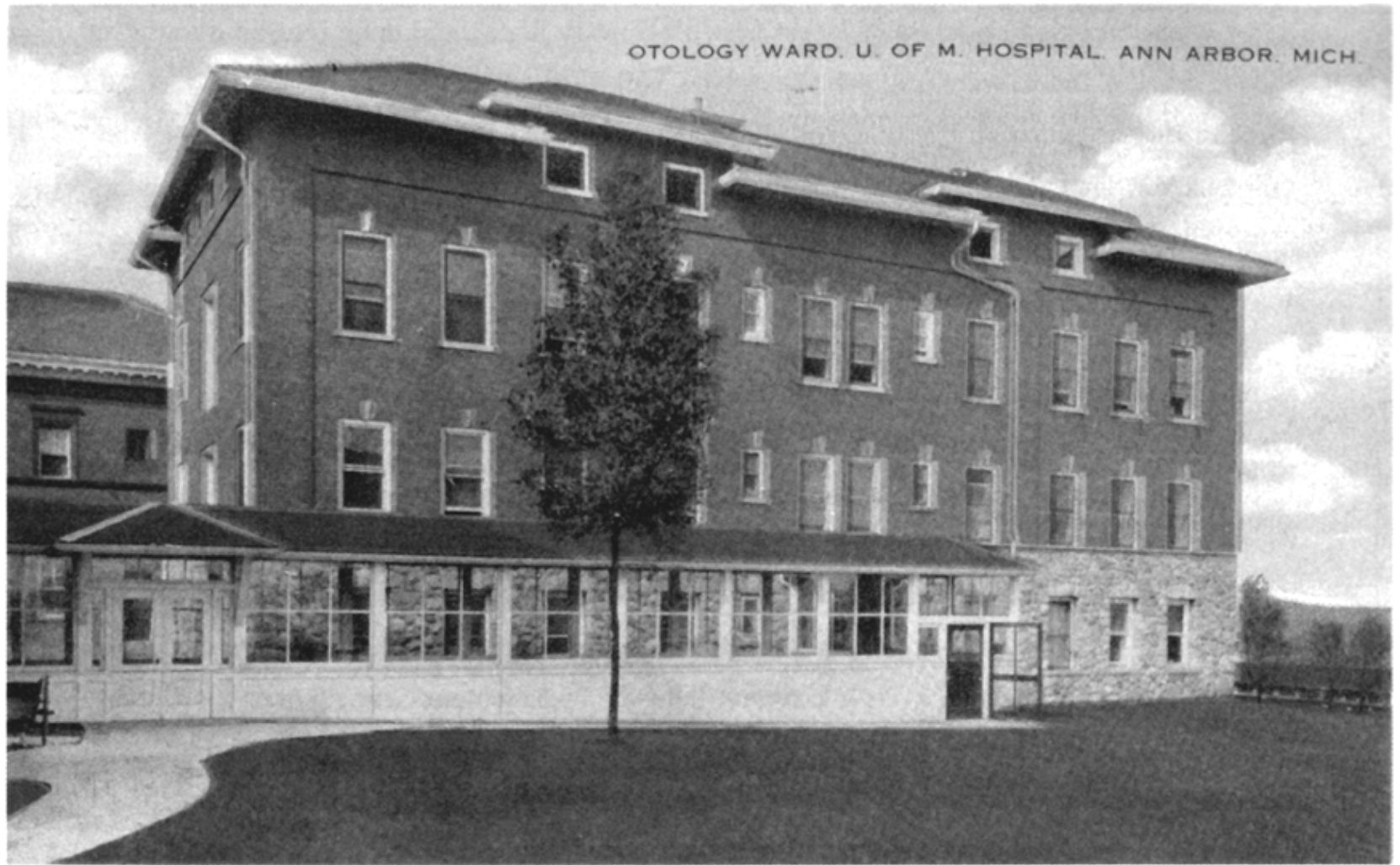




The Maternity Cottage, facility for waiting pregnant patients from 1908 to 1925, and site of the Medical School's first classroom devoted to obstetric teaching.



The Maternity Ward, first lying-in unit of the University Hospital, used for deliveries and postpartum patients from 1906 to 1925.



OTOLOGY WARD. U. OF M. HOSPITAL. ANN ARBOR. MICH.

N. F. Miller 1943



The recently abandoned "old" Maternity Hospital of the Catherine Street group, re-modeled for obstetric use in 1925 from the original Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Ward.



**Joan Stryker**

1945-1948

**Henry Tieche**

1946-1950

**Charles Lewis**

1946-1947

**Groundbreaking March 1947**

N. F. Miller 1943



The new maternity hospital was opened  
on February 14, 1950.

N. F. Miller 1943

**REUBEN PETERSON  
MEMORIAL RESEARCH LABORATORY**

**DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF A DISTINGUISHED  
SCHOLAR, AN OUTSTANDING CLINICIAN AND INSPIRING  
TEACHER, BY FORMER ASSISTANTS AND ASSOCIATES**



View of the Norman R. Kretzschmar Galen Memorial Room, to be devoted to formal and informal medical student gatherings.





## Norman R. Kretzschmar M.D., M.Sc.

- Residency U of M 1927 -1931
- Assistant Prof UM 1931-1935
- Visiting Assist Prof, Chicago 1935-36
- Assoc. Prof, UM 1936-1943
- Private Practice with Miller
- "Gifted teacher...happy combination of personal, mental. And physical traits that endeared him everlastingly to us all."

1903 - 1943



*William Kretzschmar*  
1952 - 1953, 1955 - 1958



*Robert M. Kretzschmar*  
1957 - 1962

IV. F. Miller 1943

**SOME WOMEN IN MY  
LIFE AND I**

**By**

**Norman F. Miller, M.D.**

DEDICATED TO

MY FORMER ASSOCIATES, RESIDENTS,  
INTERNES AND THE MANY OTHERS WHO  
PUT THEIR SHOULDERS TO THE WHEEL

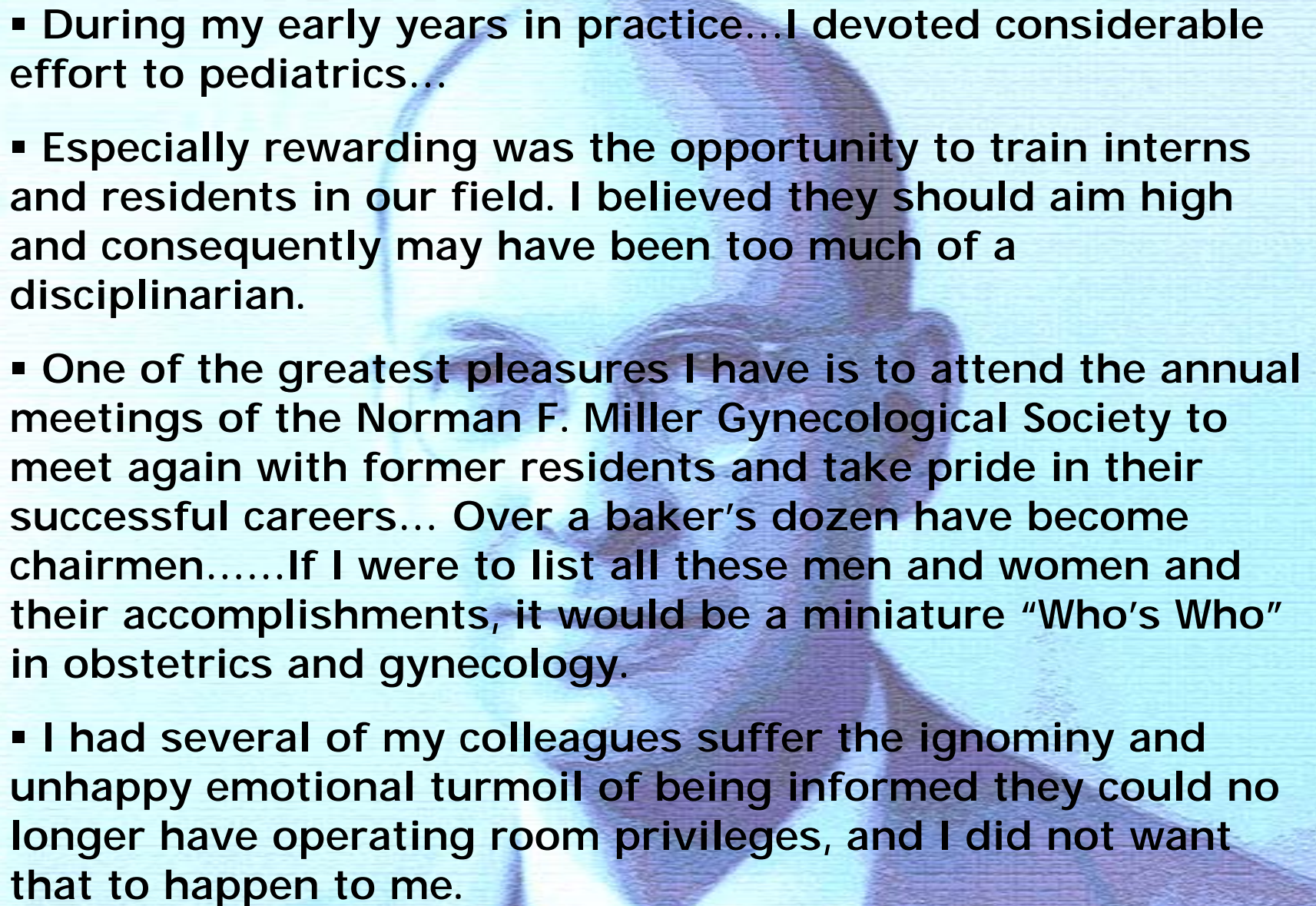


▪ *Although I had considered applying for an appointment in Urology, I finished my senior year by applying for and being accepted on the gynecology and obstetrics service under Dr. Reuben Peterson.1920*

▪ *It was when I was scheduled to perform my first hysterectomy that I had trouble...A midline vertical incision was made in the abdomen ---and much to my surprise, into the bladder...Dr. Sturmdorf was in the audience...*

▪ *We had scarcely [returned to Ann Arbor when the crash came and the banks folded. We lost our home, our only investment---the equity...Those were the dark days...1931*

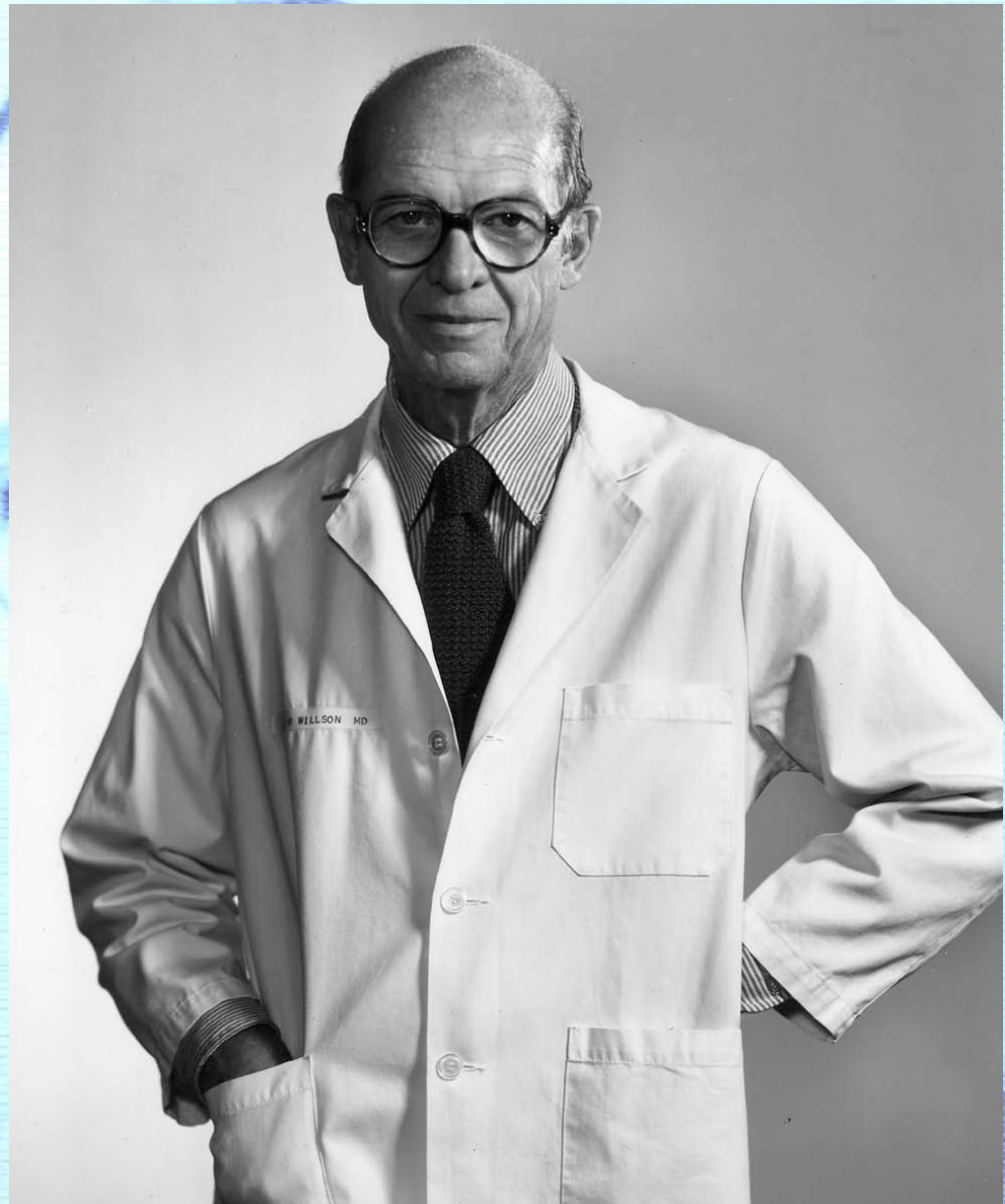
▪ *...I received an invitation to demonstrate cesarean section under local anesthesia...Little did they realize that I had not previously used local in performing abdominal delivery...If I do say so, it took a bit of guts to enter the circular arena without having an opportunity to rehearse my part...*

- 
- During my early years in practice...I devoted considerable effort to pediatrics...
  - Especially rewarding was the opportunity to train interns and residents in our field. I believed they should aim high and consequently may have been too much of a disciplinarian.
  - One of the greatest pleasures I have is to attend the annual meetings of the Norman F. Miller Gynecological Society to meet again with former residents and take pride in their successful careers... Over a baker's dozen have become chairmen.....If I were to list all these men and women and their accomplishments, it would be a miniature "Who's Who" in obstetrics and gynecology.
  - I had several of my colleagues suffer the ignominy and unhappy emotional turmoil of being informed they could no longer have operating room privileges, and I did not want that to happen to me.

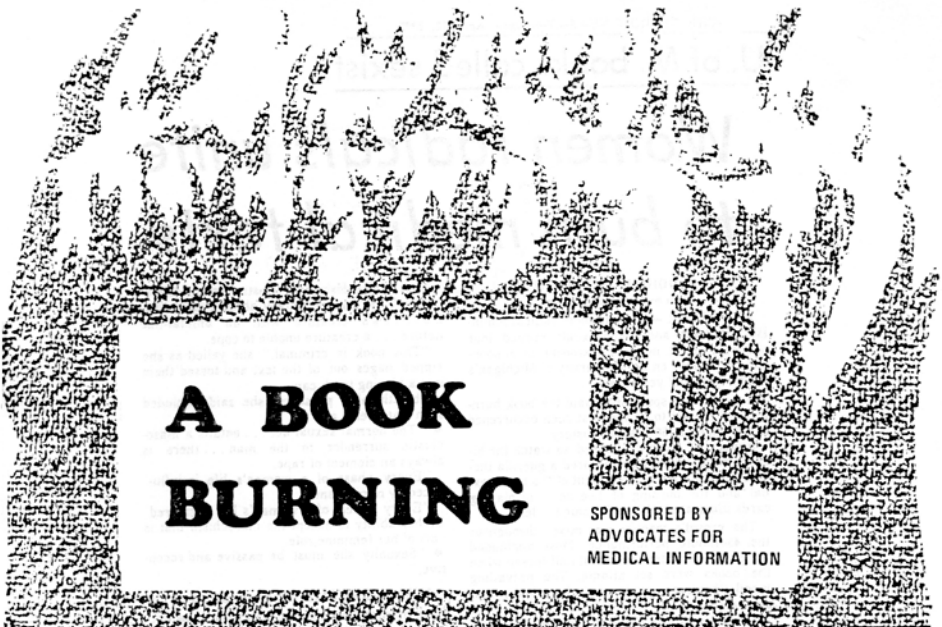
**J. Robert Willson**

**Chair**

**1964 - 1978**



**N. F. Miller 1943**



# A BOOK BURNING

SPONSORED BY  
ADVOCATES FOR  
MEDICAL INFORMATION

-INVITATION-

you are invited to attend a book burning

**SEE** books such as *Obstetrics and Gynecology* by J. Robt. Willson (U of M Hospital) go up in flames!

**HEAR** passages "ad nauseum" from chapters on the "normal" female psyche.

**LEARN** of the sexist opinions and conjectures which pass for objective "fact" in our medical school textbooks.

**ENJOY** guerilla theatre performed by members of the U of M and Eastern Mich. Drama Depts. as well as other local street theatre groups.

**WHERE** On the Diag, in front of the Grad Library.

**WHEN** At Noon, Wednesday April 11th (if it rains, the event is rescheduled for the first clear day thereafter).

**PRESS** Yes, there will be news coverage.



—Special Photo to the News

Protesters add pages to fire made from textbooks labeled 'sexist'



## U. of M. books called sexist

# Women radicals unite to burn medical texts

By JOHN E. PETERSON  
News Higher Education Writer

ANN ARBOR — A coalition of radical feminists, lesbians and homosexuals burned four allegedly sexist medical textbooks in a noon-time ceremony on the University of Michigan's famed Diagional yesterday.

A university spokesman said the book burning is believed to be the first such occurrence in the school's 156-year-old history.

About 150 students paused to watch the bizarre ritual which also featured a guerilla theatre presentation on the plight of the homosexual and the burning of two decks of playing cards illustrated with nude male models.

The crowd's reaction was mixed throughout the 45-minute performance. Most applauded the guerilla theater, but about half hissed when the books were set aflame. The prevailing mood, however, was one of curiosity and amusement.

There was little outright hostility, however.

KAY WEISS, CHAIRMAN of Advocates for Medical Information (AMI) which co-sponsored the event with the Gay Liberation Front and Radical Lesbians, said its purpose was to dramatize what she called "the health-damaging lies put forth in these textbooks."

Miss Weiss, a U. of M. senior, singled out "Obstetrics and Gynecology," a widely used medical text authored by Dr. J. Robert Wilson, U. of M. professor, and two of his former colleagues at Temple University.

"This book is so sexist that it verges on Nazism," she said, shortly before putting it to the torch.

Miss Weiss said she paid \$22 for the text at an Ann Arbor bookstore, even though the book's listed retail price is \$18.75.

Also burned were Dr. Russell C. Scott's "The World of the Gynecologist" and "Male Homosexuality: A Psycho-Analytic View," by Dr. Irving Bieber.

Miss Weiss described "Obstetrics and Gynecology" as "a male fantasy about a child like, helpless creature with an animal-like nature . . . a creature unable to cope.

"This book is criminal," she yelled as she ripped pages out of the text and tossed them into a blazing trash can.

Objectionable passages, she said, included such statements as:

- "The normal sexual act . . . entails a masochistic surrender to the man . . . there is always an element of rape.

- "Every phase of a woman's life is influenced by narcissism."

- "Every aspect of a woman's life is colored by her ability to accept the masochism that is part of her feminine role.

- "Sexually she must be passive and receptive."

MISS WEISS SAID her group called for the book burning "because we wanted to show doctors as well as women that these books encourage medical misinformation and malpractice.

"Young, male medical students reading these books would get the impression that all female headaches and gynecological problems are emotionally based," she said.

A spokesman for C. V. Mosby, the St. Louis publisher of "Obstetrics and Gynecology," however, said Miss Weiss' charges are not based on fact.

"The statements she attributes to the book are either terribly misquoted or taken out of context to such an extent that they lose their real meaning," he said.

"She's trumped up a case to suit her own viewpoint."

Dr. Willson, chairman of obstetrics and gynecology at the U. of M.'s University Hospital, and, ironically, a leader in the state's abortion-reform movement, declined comment on Miss Weiss' attack.



N. F. Miller 1943