

John R. Fraser

1890-1959

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JOHN R. FRASER died on Oct. 7, 1959. To him had been given the opportunities and the responsibilities of a life in public service whose full value it is quite impossible to calculate. It is impossible because Dr. Fraser during 50 years in medicine combined in proper proportion the work of both doctor and teacher of doctors. The teachers who were taught by him are many and the practitioners are many more. In addition there are a multitude of grateful patients who are saddened by his departure.

His brilliance, industry, and devotion were demonstrated early. In 1910 he graduated in medicine from McGill University at the age of 20. After postgraduate study in Montreal, London, and Vienna he returned to the Royal Victoria Hospital and to McGill where he was appointed an instructor in Bacteriology and Pathology. This was followed by periods in Medicine, General Surgery, and Gynecology.

During World War I he served with the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps at which time he participated in active duty overseas. He was retired with the rank of Major in 1919.

On his return to Montreal, Obstetrics and Gynecology became his special field of endeavor, and in 1924 he was made lecturer in that department at McGill. In 1929 he became full professor, and one year later he was established as Chairman of the Depart-

ment of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University and at the Royal Victoria Hospital. Each of the 12 years which followed showed evidence of remarkable progress in clinical and in scientific endeavor; but greater opportunities for service and responsibility came during World War II. Dr. Fraser was appointed Dean of Medicine at McGill during those trying years. He served in this capacity for the next 4 years.

Because of impaired health, he retired in 1945. Although he relinquished his administrative posts at McGill he maintained a keen interest in public affairs. This was demonstrated by his activities as president of the Almonte Hospital and by the fact that he continued as a member of the Board of Governors at McGill University until the time of his death.

Personal honors received by him are too numerous to mention, but the most notable ones included his appointments as Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Great Britain, Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, and Fellow of the American Gynecological Society.

Those of us who were privileged to know him intimately will cherish the memory of a stately Scotch-Canadian whose enthusiasm for the study of things which are live endeared him to many people.

Newell W. Philpott