

1877-1972

FRED LYMAN ADAIR'S first exposure to the world occurred on July 28, 1877, in Anamosa, Iowa. His parents were Dr. Lyman Joseph Adair and Sarah Jennings Porter. Following his grade and high schooling in Iowa, he entered the University of Minnesota, from which he received his B.S. (1898) and M.A. (1910) degrees. His graduation from Rush Medical School in 1901 opened opportunities which he accepted and through which he became, in time, a nationally famous obstetrician and gynecologist.

Early in his career, in general and family practice, he established in Minneapolis a home delivery service, fashioned like that of Dr. Joseph B. De Lee's at the Maxwell Street dispensary. In the next few years, the fascinating and challenging call of obstetrics and gynecology brought about a change exclusively to this specialty. His year of research was at Charité Hospital in Berlin, under Prof. Ernest Bumm, and led to his inaugural thesis before the American Gynecological Society. His election to this Society occurred in 1915. He served this organization regularly and with dedication. He was honored by his election to the Treasurership and subsequently the Presidency.

He served with the American Red Cross in Belgium and France and was awarded the *Crois Civique* by the Belgian government. After the completion of this service, he returned to Minneapolis to again engage in private practice in obstetrics and gynecology. He became Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Minnesota and also served as Chief of Service at both the Minneapolis General and the Swedish Hospitals.

The University of Chicago, in becoming a full four-year medical school by its expansion into the clinical area in 1929, called

upon Dr. Adair to serve as the Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. It was with reluctance that he left his friends and associates in Minneapolis, but the challenge of the University of Chicago gained his favor. The department continued under his direction until his mandatory retirement at the age of 65 in 1942. Although he participated in investigational activities, scientific contributions, and clinical duties, he provided opportunities for and encouraged each member of his department to improve himself. The record reveals that a number of them ultimately became internationally known for their expertise as teachers, researchers, and clinicians.

His Scottish background showed in that, while he was friendly and liked people, his respect had to be earned. As with most people, humor had a place in his life, but was not a replacement for other and more important considerations. His capacity for long steady hours of work, with little evidence of fatigue, was in itself impressive. If the situation demanded, an immediate decision would be made, but preference was given to a deliberate and a gradually logical approach.

Dr. Adair served in one or another capacity in a number of societies and committees such as the American Board of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the Joint Commission on Maternal Welfare. His guidance as Chairman of the First, Second, and Third American Congress on Obstetrics and Gynecology culminated in outstanding conventions. Other activities to improve maternal welfare are illustrated by his role as Consultant to the Children's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor, and also Chairman of the Committee on Prenatal Care of President Hoover's White House Conference on Child Health and Protection. His name is listed in all of the ap-

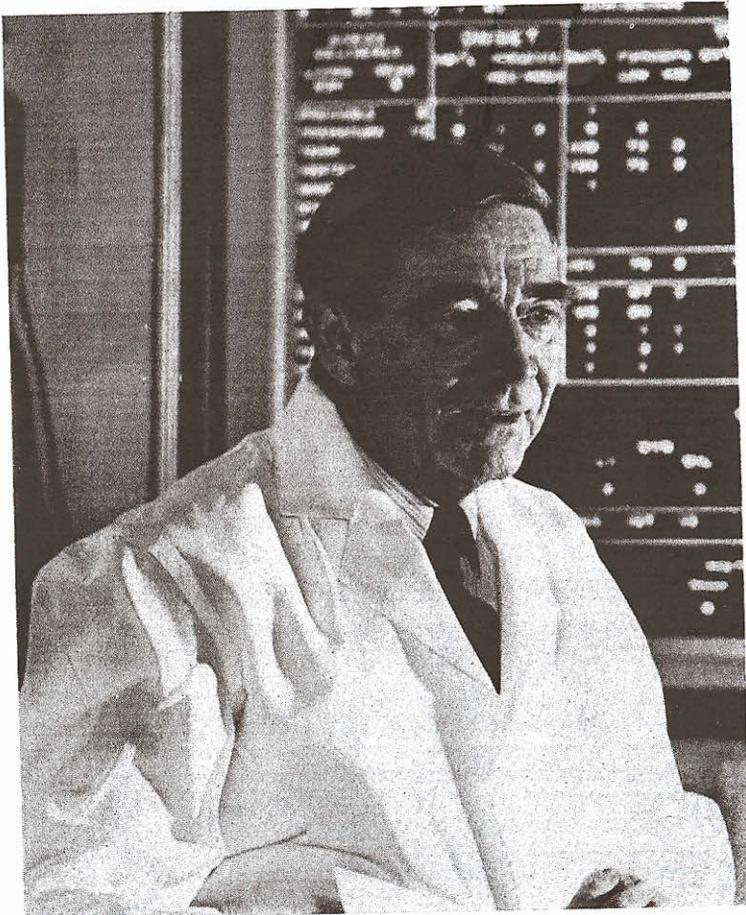
propriate directories. Volumes testify to his energies and indicate the high position he gained in obstetrics and gynecology.

On November 18, 1911, he married Myrtle May Ingalls. In accord with his Scottish heritage, a strong united family evolved. To this couple were born three children, Agnes (Mrs. John) Kuhn, Rev. John R. C. Adair, and Rev. Gregory Richard Adair. For years after his mandatory retirement from the University, his mental and physical units functioned well. He remembered us regularly with letters and appropriate greeting cards. But, as must

all men ultimately, he departed from this world peacefully and quietly at the age of 94 on February 13, 1972.

A sentence in Robert Louis Stevenson's "Eulogy of a physician" expresses only partially my view of Dr. Fred Lyman Adair: ". . . He is the flower of our civilization and when that stage of man is done with only to be marvelled at in history, he will be thought to have shared but little in the defects of the period and to have most notably exhibited the virtues of the race. . . ."

H. CLOSE HESSELTINE, M.D.



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