

The Medical Heritage Center

HOUSE CALL

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A Living Legend : Charles W. Pavey

by George W. Paulson, M.D.

At 95, Dr. Charles Pavey II remains a living legend in Columbus. Not only has he delivered over 10,000 babies, but he has also contributed to the preservation of an entire neighborhood community.

A graduate of the OSU College of Medicine class of 1928, Dr. Pavey interned at St. Francis Hospital. Afterward, Dr. Van Buskirk encouraged him to stay on staff. One day Dr. Andrews Rogers, who was then Chair of OB/GYN at OSU, stopped Dr. Pavey on his way home and asked "How would you like to be the chief resident in obstetrics?" After hearing the job paid \$1000 per year, Dr. Pavey accepted the offer. Dr. Pavey delivered three babies that afternoon and averaged three to five deliveries per day during the next ten years. He claims that as many as every three out of four deliveries in the county during that time were done by him. Some OSU students called him "Knees" Pavey because he insisted that they gently hold the women's knees while they assisted him with what were called "observations," while he was doing the "conduction." Pavey felt the human hand was kinder than metal stirrups for the women and in addition the policy assured that the students could perceive what was happening. Dr. Pavey has been given credit by many for increasing the safety of caesarian sections since he was the first to use local anesthesia when as many as ten per cent of the patients were troubled by the current anesthetics.



Charles W. Pavey, 1928 class photo

Dr. Pavey was born in the house where he currently resides. His father sold horses, which were kept in pens behind the house. During WWI, Pavey assisted his father in selling horses, selling as many as a thousand in one day. Most went to the Belgians for the war effort. He still remembers the day his father was stunned by the large headline "Huns quit" and he knew that the horse business was over. In 1913 a one-acre shed was built, plus an additional barn. The barn remains in the field across from west campus and is called the Pavey Barn on the University map.

Dr. Pavey, along with his highly respected son, Charles Pavey, III, have hosted the ice cream social for the neighborhood university committee for over twenty years, reflecting his conviction that the way to preserve where you live is to be involved. Pavey purchased and often personally repaired many of the houses in the vicinity of his residence. Without his effort this area of High Street would surely lack its current beauty.

As a member of the Columbus Academy of Medicine, Dr. Pavey has served as writer, historian, and president. His staunch conservative views and his devotion to superb patient care are remembered by many. No one will ever know how many now middle-aged Columbus citizens owe a debt to the man that is one of OSU's oldest living graduates.

Our Distinguished Visitor: Osler in Columbus, 1899

by Charles F. Wooley, M. D.

"Our Distinguished Visitor" was the headline above an article describing the day William Osler honored the Ohio Medical University (OMU) with a visit and a clinical lecture. The article appeared in *The Phagocyte*, the student publication from the OMU. The OMU, founded in 1892, was located in what is now the Short North district in downtown Columbus, and was the fourth in a series of five nineteenth century Columbus medical schools that were predecessors to The Ohio State University College of Medicine established in 1914.

When Osler visited Columbus, the OMU consisted of a new five-story building across from Goodale Park; just adjacent was the Protestant Hospital. Osler was in Columbus as the guest of Dr. Edwin Frazer Wilson, in consultation with one of Dr. Wilson's patients. Dr. Wilson, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia in 1885 was a student when Osler was the Chair of Clinical Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania from 1884 to 1889. Wilson came to Columbus in 1889, and at the time of Osler's visit, was

established as a respected physician and Professor of Therapeutics and Clinical Medicine at OMU.

Dr. Osler's presence at the clinic was described as a rare treat for the students, an opportunity "to see and hear a man who has so honored the medical profession by his eminent attainments and achieved recognition by the most learned societies of Europe and America." Murray B. McGonigle, a medical student of the OMU Class of 1900, reported the visit, and his notes were the bases for a report in the Columbus Medical Journal as well as in his article in *The Phagocyte*. McGonigle stated that a hundred students were in the amphitheater at clinic hour when OMU Chancellor, Dr. David N. Kinsman, distin-

guished Columbus physician, arose and said, "It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you a gentleman who is known in two hemispheres, and with whose writings and books you are somewhat familiar. I introduce to you Dr. William Osler, of Johns Hopkins."

The Clinical Presentation and Lecture

The patient was a 16 year-old young man who was brought to the OMU amphitheater from the Protestant Hospital with a history of kidney trouble. Osler began his examination by questioning the young man, reviewed the hospital records, and then discussed significant facets of the history. He proceeded to the physical examination, which was described as being performed in a positive, deliberate manner, giving an object lesson in physical diagnosis that thoroughly impressed the students.

Osler's physical findings were recorded by McGonigle. The patient was well nourished but his color was pale. There was an extensive grade of sclerosis of all the palpable arteries, and the arterial pulses were at high tension and could be obliterated only with difficulty. The apex beat of the heart was displaced to the left, the second heart sound

was palpable over the area of the aortic valve and was ringing on auscultation; the heart was hypertrophied. There was no edema of the ankles.

Osler made a test of the urine showing a large amount of albumin and no casts; the test tube was passed around the class. His diagnosis of the case was Chronic Interstitial Nephritis, with marked Arterial Sclerosis and Hypertrophy of the Heart. Osler then discussed the possible causes of the illness in light of the knowledge of the day. Following infectious fevers such as scarlet fever or tonsillitis, the kidneys may become contracted, and then the sclerosis of the arteries and cardiac hypertrophy supervene. Albuminuria and retinitis may be present. Regarding the patient at hand, he expressed concern about the prognosis

Sir William Osler

1849 - 1919

Physician, Teacher, Historian, Biographer, Bibliophile

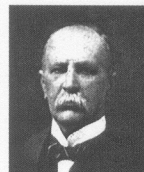
1872 McGill University, Montreal
Two years study in Europe

1874 McGill Institute of Medicine
Lecturer/Professor

1884 University of Pennsylvania
Chair of Clinical Medicine

1889 Johns Hopkins University
Professor/Chief, Medical Department

1905 Oxford University
Regius Professor of Medicine



in a boy sixteen years old with arteries that are seventy years old. Osler then outlined the limited treatment options.

Osler's Closing Remarks

Following the clinic presentation and discussion, Osler addressed his remarks to the students.

"Gentleman, the most unhappy day of my life was when I sold my brains to the publisher. For a long time they had been after me to write a text book but I resisted. I never thought very much about a text book. I was tired of them and thought I was fitted for something better than writing a text book, but finally I consented. I must have had Neurasthenia or something else, and I beg your pardon for ever having consented to write a book. I have been sorry for students ever since, and trust when "Osler" goes out of vogue some one will have ready an easier text." Osler's tongue in cheek remarks about selling his brains to the publisher referred to his "The Principles and Practice of Medicine," first published in 1892, the most influential medical book in American Medicine and the medical student's bible for years to come. Osler wrote the book as a single author text through the first seven editions; overall there were 16 editions during the 55 years the text was in print.

During his medical career in Canada, the United States, and England, Osler taught at McGill University in Montreal, the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, and at Oxford University in England. He established an easy rapport with medical students wherever he was.

"I am very glad to have met you all. I never meet a crowd of medical students but I think of Abernethy's remark, 'Good God! What will become of you all?' I know what will become of you. You will all do well. The medical profession is one in which every man can make a success, that is to say, he can be successful if he will work hard, study hard, and take an interest in his patients, not only that they are patients but because of his duty to mankind. Practice not only with your head but with your heart also.

"Avoid professional jealousies and bitterness. Gad, doctors are worse than parsons in engendering ill feeling among themselves. When you locate, look up all the respectable doctors and leave your card. Tell them you are going to locate and that you expect to deal squarely, and you will find they will treat you right. Shut up at once the patient who would tell you of the faults of a professional brother. They will go to another and say the same of you. If you go with the seamy side out, the same side will be returned toward you. Go with the woolly side out and all will be well and success crown your efforts."

Afterward

Osler's Columbus trip was a brief moment in a whirlwind career. Just four days earlier he had been in Providence, Rhode Island, to address the Rhode Island Medical Society on the topic "Elisha Bartlett, a Rhode Island Philosopher." In addition to his clinical and academic responsibilities at Johns Hopkins, an ever expanding schedule of lectures and presentations, Osler was becoming the consultant in Internal Medicine, and was in particular demand as consultant for physicians and their families. He left Hopkins in 1905 to the less arduous position as Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford University.

References

"A case of chronic interstitial nephritis." (Clinical lecture at the Ohio Medical University, December 11, 1899; reported by Murray B. McGonigle.) *Columbus M. J.*, 1899, xxiii: 551-52.

Wooley CF. "William Osler and the New York Times, 1897-1931." *J Med Biogr.*, 1999, 7: 130-9.

Calendar of Events

January 2002 The Art of Neuroscience exhibit on loan from the National Academy of Science will be available in the Main Hall.

March 2002 M. Therese Southgate, MD, Senior Contributing Editor of JAMA will present the *Warren Lecture*. Her topic will be based on her work with the art covers for JAMA and her recently released book.

May 2002 The Medical Heritage Center will sponsor a tea during National Nurses Week to honor nurses' historical contribution to medicine.

More details will be forthcoming prior to each event.

Recent Donations

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The Medical Heritage Center thanks those listed for their recent support.

Evelyn S. Baker: Biographical information about A. J. Shoemaker MD, artifacts

Dr. John C. Burnham: Gave 2 issues of Caduceus and several issues of Vesalius.

Bruce Pontious: Donated his father's Ultra Violet kit.

Gwen Trudeau M.D.: Misc. artifacts

Nancy Dunn Williams: Donated a 1906 Columbus Ohio Journal

Roger D. Williams M.D. Donated the Emerson Burkhart portrait of Robert M. Zollinger, M.D.

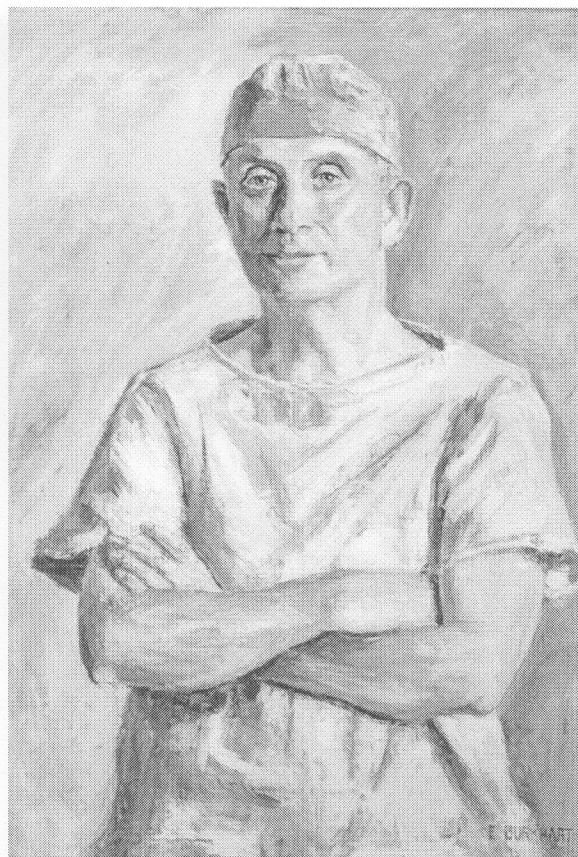
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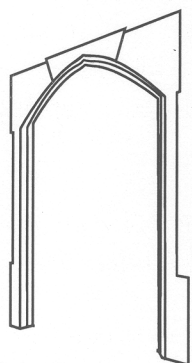
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*Portrait of Robert M. Zollinger, M.D. by Emerson Burkhart
Photo Courtesy of Jim Brown*



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