HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE NEUROLOGICAL INSTITUTE AND THE NEUROLOGICAL SOCIETIES*

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A fiftieth anniversary seems perhaps more than any other to have a twofold significance—a goal attained and a starting point for new achievement. I am honored to have the opportunity of speaking on such an occasion in the annals of the New York Neurological Institute. Your President has suggested as my subject the relationship of the New York Neurological Society and the Section on Neurology and Psychiatry of The New York Academy of Medicine to the Neurological Institute. This assignment gives me a particular satisfaction, for to speak of the relation of these societies to the Institute is to speak of the men who created them. It thus affords me an opportunity to pay homage on behalf of the Neurological Institute to the distinguished neurologists who laid the foundations upon which it has built so effectively and, incidentally, to express my own indebtedness to the men who placed New York in the vanguard of our specialty in America. Carlyle has said: "In every man's writings the character of the writer must lie recorded." So the character of the founders is reflected in the institutions that grew from their efforts.

To review the work even of the more illustrious of our members would carry me far beyond the time at our disposal. For the sake of the record, I should like at least to mention the names of Edward Spitzka, Landon Gray, George Beard, John Shaw—referred to by Spitzka as "Cardinal to the Pope Seguin"—Bernard Sachs, Israel Strauss, Smith Ely Jelliffe, Ramsay Hunt, George Jacoby, Edward Fisher, Foster Kennedy, Walter Timme, and Edwin Zabriskie. I shall refer at greater length to William Hammond, Edward Seguin, Allen Starr, and

* Presented, March 10, 1959, at a combined meeting of the Section on Neurology and Psychiatry and the New York Neurological Society, at The New York Academy of Medicine, in commemoration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Neurological Institute of New York of the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center.

Frederick Tilney, who from 1870 to 1938 held successively the chair of neurology in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and to Charles Dana, Professor of Nervous Diseases at Cornell. These men played a dominant role in American, and specifically New York neurology, not alone by virtue of their teaching activities, but also through their numerous contributions to the fund of neurological knowledge.

Organized neurology in New York dates from 1872. There was at that time a galaxy of eminent neurologists in this city, ten of whom formed the New York Neurological Society. It was not until 1874, however, that the Society became an actual working organization. On March 10 of that year, exactly 85 years ago to the day, Dr. William Hammond issued the following call to the neurologists of New York:

Dear Sir:

It is contemplated to reorganize the New York Neurological Society (instituted March 1872), and you are respectfully invited to cooperate in this work.

Probably no department of medicine is advancing with greater rapidity than that which relates to the Physiology, Pathology and Therapeutics of the Nervous System. It is not doubted that there are, in this city and its vicinity, many who will take such an interest in this society as to render it of great service to medical science.

Believing you to be of this number, this circular is addressed to you, in the hope that you will become one of the original members.

Should you accede to this proposal, please address a note to that effect, at your earliest convenience, to either of the undersigned.

Due notice will be given of the first meeting of the society.

Respectfully

Your obedient servant.

William A. Hammond, 43 W. 54th Street
Alexander Murray, 23 East 10th Street
J. Marion Sims, 267 Madison Avenue
J. C. Peters, 83 Madison Avenue
Max Hertzog, 48 West 34th Street

Forty-three physicians responded and met with signers of the invitation on April 6, 1874, in the rooms of the Medical Library and Journal Association, 107 East 28th Street. Dr. J. C. Peters was asked to occupy the chair temporarily and Dr. George Wells was appointed Secretary *pro tem.* At the request of Dr. Peters, Dr. Hammond set forth the purpose of the meeting, namely to revive the New York Neurological

Society—which beyond the transaction of some business of minor importance had accomplished nothing in the two years of its existence—and to "proceed to active work". Dr. Hammond was elected President of the revivified society, with Dr. John C. Peters as First Vice-President; Dr. J. Marion Sims, Second Vice-President; Dr. George D. Wells, Recording Secretary; Dr. Max Hertzog, Corresponding Secretary; Dr. Alexander Murray, Treasurer; Drs. J. H. H. Burgh, D. B. St. John Roosa, J. M. B. Cross, F. D. Lente, and S. LeRoy Satterlee, Councilors.

The second meeting was held May 4th, 1874, with an inaugural address by the President entitled "The Effects of Alcohol on the Nervous System", a subject which the Society is still investigating on occasion, in one way or another. The motto, *Fabricando Fabri Fimus* (We achieve in doing), suggested by Hammond, was now to become its guiding principle.

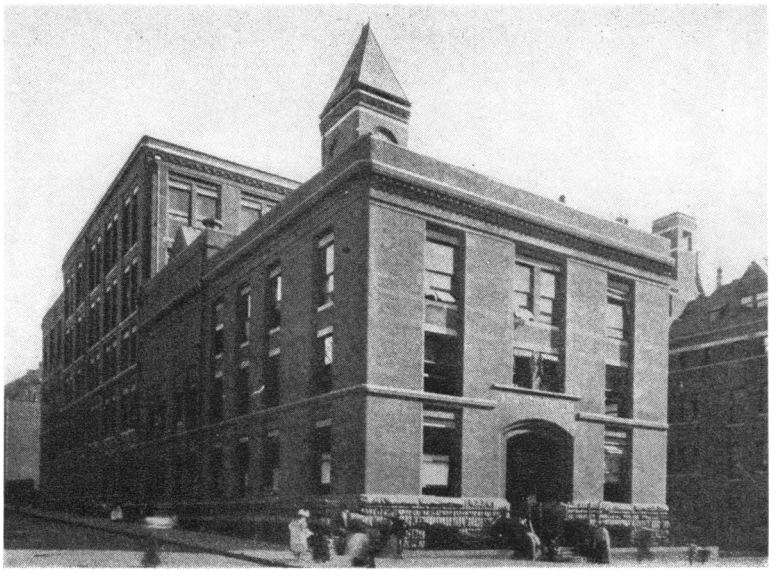
This was the first Neurological Society in America. The Philadelphia Neurological Society was founded in 1884, with Weir Mitchell as its somewhat reluctant President, and the Neurological Society of London in 1886, with Hughlings Jackson as President.

Less than a year after the founding of the New York Neurological Society another call was issued by William Hammond and six of his colleagues, four of them from New York, which led to the formation of the American Neurological Association. As contemplated by its founders, this was to be a national association for the cultivation of the neurological sciences, the number of members not to exceed 50. Thirty-five men signified their acceptance, 16 of whom were New York neurologists.

The first eleven meetings of the American Neurological Association were held in New York City; the second, third and fourth meetings at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, then at Twenty-third Street and Fourth Avenue; the remainder at The New York Academy of Medicine, then at 12 West 31st Street.

Dr. Hammond, a genial host, at the first meeting and on a number of subsequent occasions invited the members to dine at his home. These early gatherings were the forerunners of the annual dinner which in former years contributed so much to the close relationship among the members of the Society.

I trust I shall be forgiven if I digress here to refer to one or two of these occasions which have become a part of the Society's tradition. It



VANDERBILT CLINIC, 1888

is related that while Landon Carter Gray, a reserved, dignified, even austere figure, was President, his attention at dinner was diverted while those beside him filled his pockets with silver from the table. Suddenly he was seized by a "Constable" and William Osler began pulling silver out of his pockets, saying: "Item one, 2 silver spoons; item two, 2 silver forks; item three, knife—all marked A C, property of the club—and finally a pepper and salt shaker."

At another meeting, William Keen, an ardent prohibitionist, was present. Suddenly, when the evening was well along, one of the members seized him and stood him on one end of the table, another crowned him with a wreath of leaves after Bacchus, and others came forward to pour libations at his feet.

History apparently *does* repeat itself, for on still another evening some years ago, Dr. Henry A. Riley and I decided that our beloved Adolph Meyer, then seated at the speaker's table, adorned with a lei and a hula-hula skirt, would speak more eloquently if he were lifted upon the table. With some trepidation we proceeded to put our idea into effect. It may be said that Adolph Meyer never made a more telling speech than on that occasion, and no one seemed to enjoy the episode more than he.

To return to more serious matters, on April 13th, 1885, eleven years after the reorganization of the New York Neurological Society, the Section on Neurology of The New York Academy of Medicine was formed. Abraham Jacoby, then President of the Academy, held that its individual sections should play a more important role and, since no section of neurology existed, urged that one be instituted. Of the 12 sections now existing, the one on neurology and psychiatry is the third oldest. The first meeting took place April 13, 1885.

"In response to a call of the President of the Academy of Medicine, the following members of the Academy met at No. 12 West 31st Street at 8:30 P.M., April 13, Drs. Amidon, Bull, Corning, Gibney, Jacoby, Leo, E. A. Maxwell, J. C. Peters, Putzel, Seguin and Graeme Hammond.

"Dr. Peters was temporarily installed as Chairman. He inquired as to the object of the meeting. Dr. Gibney then stated that as a part of the endeavor to centralize medical work about the Academy, it had seemed desirable to him that a neurological section be started. This step was taken not in a spirit of controversy with any existing organization for he thought that there were both men and material enough in New York to make interesting two neurological meetings a month. The Academy had as members many who were deeply interested in neurology who had pledged themselves to give the section their support. In conclusion he moved that a section of neurology be organized.

"After some discussion as to the title of the section the motion was carried.

"The officers were then elected as follows: Chairman, Leopold Putzel; Secretary, Graeme Hammond.

"It was then decided that the meetings should be held on the second Friday evening of each month, excepting July, August and September. Upon motion it was voted that for the present the members of the section bear the expenses of printing cards giving notice of meetings, etc.

"On motion the section then adjourned."

During the intervening years the New York Neurological Society and the Section on Neurology of the Academy of Medicine have worked together in a happy union to advance the science of neurology and its cognate subjects.*

* The records of a meeting of the Council of the Neurological Society, February 4, 1878, bring to light an amusing conflict with the Academy. At that meeting a discussion took place as to the charge by the Academy for the use of its small parlor. The Academy apparently charged the New York Neurological Society five dollars for each of the summer months from June first to November first, when no meetings were held. To this the members objected. As if this were not enough, on one occasion when the small parlor was not ready, they were compelled to use the large hall and were charged an extra fee. After considerable discussion it was stated that "if such sharp practices are to be followed by the Academy of Medicine, it is our opinion that the sooner we break our contract the better . . at the rate charged at present, we will soon be obliged to close the society altogether". The Academy relented and agreed that the New York Neurological Society could occupy the small parlor for five dollars an evening and not be charged for the summer months, when no meetings were held.

The two New York societies from their beginning manifested an interest in public affairs affecting their specialty. In July 1874, Dr. Hammond gave the results of the postmortem findings in a case of hydrophobia, remarking fully upon the histology and exhibiting microscopic sections. A series of resolutions was passed by the New York Neurological Society and a committee was appointed to make an investigation as to the cause, prevention, and treatment of this condition. In December 1874, in further pursuit of this matter, the Society unanimously adopted a proposal to prevent the passage of legislation offered by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, praying that no such legislation should receive the countenance of the Legislature of the State of New York.

In February 1878, following presentation of a paper by Edward Spitzka criticizing the management of the insane in the State of New York, with particular reference to the evils of restraint, the Society appointed a Committee on the Insane, consisting of Hammond, Gray, Spitzka, Morton, and Harwood, to present to the State Senate a petition containing the complaints deemed most important, and requesting a thorough investigation of *all* institutions for the care of the insane in the State, so that "the broad light of day should shine upon the whole subject".

At its annual meeting on January 1, 1901, the New York Neurological Society again concerned itself with the management of the insane. The society recommended the creation of one central laboratory where the best scientific men in the various departments of medicine could devote themselves exclusively to original research in pathology, neurophysiology, psychology, chemistry and anthropology. It was felt that their studies and publications, from year to year, would advance the treatment of the insane and be a credit to the State as a patron of science which foreshadowed Dr. Adolph Meyer's appointment as Director of the Pathological (Psychiatric) Institute on Ward's Island.

William Hammond, the prime mover in the organization of the New York Neurological Society, may certainly be designated the outstanding figure in the early history of neurology not only in New York but also in America. He was born in 1827, son of a physician and descendant of two old Maryland families. He began the study of medicine at sixteen, was graduated (1848) from New York University at twenty with the degree of M.D. and then served an internship in the Pennsyl-

vania Hospital. He was in the Army from 1849 to 1860 and during this period, in spite of many difficult assignments, was able to devote some time to physiological research. His paper on the "Nutritive Value and Physiological Effects of Albumen, Starch and Gum When Singly and Exclusively Used as a Food" won for Hammond the American Medical Association prize in 1857.

His many attainments attracted the attention of the University of Maryland and in 1860 he resigned from the Army to accept the Chair of Anatomy and Physiology in that institution. With the outbreak of the Civil War, he resigned his professorship and rejoined the Army, not with the high rank he had earlier attained, but as an assistant surgeon at the foot of the list. His great ability and the backing of the important Sanitary Commission, however, won him prompt promotion to the office of Surgeon General. In this position he made many notable and far-seeing changes in the medical department of the Army. In May 1863 he created a separate Army hospital for the treatment of nervous diseases and nerve injuries, the first such institution to be established in an American army, the command of which he asked his colleague and friend Silas Weir Mitchell to share with George Morehouse. In recognition of this achievement and the far-sighted vision which prompted it, Weir Mitchell in 1872 dedicated his book "*Injuries of the Nerves and Their Consequences*", to Hammond. The Board of Medical Examiners was reorganized and the standards for applicants for the medical department were raised. Hammond also directed the organization of an Army Medical Museum, recommended the establishment of a permanent general Army Hospital in Washington, and instituted a military medical library. While carrying on the burdens of the Surgeon General's office, he began the *Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion*, as well as publishing a volume of more than 500 pages on military medicine and surgery.

Hammond's many innovations and dynamic personality plus the fact that his appointment had been urged upon Secretary Stanton over the heads of others, including the latter's own choice, inevitably led to conflict with the autocratic Secretary of War. Stanton issued orders relieving Hammond of his Washington post, though retaining his rank as Surgeon General, and assigned him to New Orleans. Hammond demanded restoration of his office or court martial. It is said the court martial found for acquittal but a reconsideration was directed and

Hammond was then dismissed. In 1878, at a rehearing, his conduct in office was vindicated and his rank as Brigadier General was restored by an act of Congress. His portrait in full dress uniform now hangs in the National Library of Medicine.*

On Hammond's return to New York after the termination of his Army career, his knowledge and skill as a neurologist won for him a lectureship at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and subsequently a professorship was created for him at Bellevue Hospital Medical College. Not only was he recognized as a stimulating teacher, having an easy flow of language and a commanding personality, but his great ability earned for him a dominant role as a neurologist and, as we have seen, as a builder and organizer of neurology, not only in New York but in America. He was the first to describe athetosis, in 1871, and in 1890 his son, Graeme Hammond, presented the pathological findings of the case on which his father had based his original description. One hundred twenty-five other papers and sixteen books were written by Hammond, covering a wide variety of subjects: "On Pigmentary Deposits in the Brain Resulting from Malarial Poisoning"; "Myxoedema with Special Reference to Cerebral and Nervous Symptoms", which contained the first reference to the endocrine system; "Spinal Irritation, Posterial Spinal Anaemia"; "Thalamic Epilepsy"; "Mysophobia"; "Seven Recent Cases of Brain Surgery"; "The Effects of Alcohol upon the Nervous System"; and "Fasting Girls, their Physiology and Pathology". These and many other contributions earned him a national reputation.

Hammond's *Diseases of the Nervous System*, published in 1871, was the first American treatise on neurology and went through nine editions, being translated into French, Italian, and Spanish. *Spiritualism and Allied Causes and Conditions of Nervous Derangements* appeared in 1876. The object of this book, as stated by its author, was "to strip from the basis of fact, which at most always exists, the network of error which ignorance, credulity, and superstition have woven around it. . . . There can be no conflict between pure science and pure religion, for the one is truth, and the other is faith in truth." Previously Hammond had published *Physiological Memoirs* in 1863, and *Military Medical and Surgical Essays* for the U. S. Sanitary Commission in 1864. Finally, his

* This record is almost the exact counterpart of the trials and tribulations of John Morgan. Director General of the American Medical Department during the Revolution, when the intrigue and antagonism of William Shippen culminated in Morgan's unjust dismissal in 1777. Two years later Morgan was honorably acquitted by a court of inquiry. He was a graduate of Edinburgh, a member of the French Academy of Surgery and a Fellow of the Royal Society.

Treatise on Insanity in its Medical Relations appeared in 1893. From 1867 to 1869 he edited the *Quarterly Journal of Psychological Medicine* and, from 1870 to 1876, its successor, the *Journal of Psychological Medicine*, which in 1873 became the *Psychological and Medico-Legal Journal.*

Hammond was outspoken in expressing his opinion, with little fear of the consequences. He had something of a flair for showmanship. One of his public experiences brought forth the following editorial in the *Psychological and Medico-Legal Society Journal*, then edited by Allen McLane Hamilton:

> "Quite recently, several public-spirited medical members of the medical profession, with a very considerable desire to expose spiritualism, invited a young man to demonstrate to a mixed audience how the tricks were performed. An introductory address by Dr. Hammond, whose name had been advertised throughout the city for a week previously, and an organ solo introducing the Star Spangled Banner, by a well-known organist, drew a great many curious people together. Dr. A. B. Mott and two other medical men tied up the medium in a skillful manner, and the affair was witnessed by a large number of the profession. We would take the liberty of suggesting that it would be much more dignified, and proper, if such investigations hereafter were made by committees from the Medical Societies, and, if necessary their reports could be subsequently given to the public."

While Hammond was the driving force in the creation and organization of neurology as a specialty, he had as a contemporary and coworker Edward Seguin, whom Mills of Philadelphia considered to be "the best clinician I have ever known". When Mills was summarizing his views on cerebral localization in 1888, he referred to Seguin's numerous contributions as ranking "first in American medical literature", and Dana told young medical men that, if they wanted to succeed, they should study the lives of Seguin, father and son.

Edward Constant Seguin was born in 1843, son of a distinguished father, Edouard Seguin, who came to this country from Paris in 1850. The younger Seguin was cradled in neurology, having studied medicine under his father before entering the Medical School of Columbia University from which he was graduated in 1864. He served on hospital ships as a dresser before the age of nineteen and subsequently as a medical cadet during the Civil War.

After Seguin's service in the Army and a medical residency, he studied abroad under Brown-Séquard, Charcot, Ranvier and Cornil.

WILLIAM ALEXANDER HAMMOND
Courtesy of The National Library of Medicine

EDWARD CONSTANT SEGUIN
Courtesy of The New York Academy of Medicine

Under Ranvier he developed an interest in neuroanatomy and histology, and under Cornil became interested in the pathology of the nervous system. Imbued with the keen, penetrating clinical principles taught him by Brown-Séquard and Charcot, he returned to New York and became associated with William Draper, Professor of Medicine in the College of Physicians and Surgeons. While with Draper, he devised the first clinical chart in America, calling it a Chart of Vital Signs. It showed in graphic form respirations, pulse and temperature, and was essentially identical with the charts now in use.

After a short period of general practice, Seguin determined to devote himself exclusively to diseases of the nervous system, believing that only by specialization could well qualified observers, with leisure to work in a given field, advance original research. His studies were sadly interrupted by a great personal tragedy. His wife, in a sudden fit of insanity, killed herself and her three children. Seguin retired temporarily to Europe, and during his sojourn there his lectures and clinical papers covering the period from 1866 to 1882 were brought together in a single volume, as *Opera Minora,* by his brother-in-law Robert

Amidon. They were affectionately inscribed by Seguin "To William Draper, Professor of Medicine at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, my friend and master in the clinical art".

Seguin's lectures were models of clarity and logical sequence, frequently closing with a brief historical sketch of the subject under discussion. His instructions on "Methods of the Neurological Examination" could be read today to great advantage.

Seguin's introductory lecture on *Diseases of the Nervous System* (1874) is divided into three sections: 1) The elementary parts of the nervous system—their anatomical attributes and physiological properties; 2) study of the organs and apparatus of the central nervous system and their functions; 3) a summary of the chief modifications of their properties and functions, which constitute the symptomatology of disease. He recognized four general functions of the nervous system: sensation, motion, reflex, and coordination. Questions to be determined by the neurologist were: Is there disease, where is the disease, what is the disease, and lastly, though foremost in importance, what can be done to cure or relieve the patient?

Seguin divided the spinal cord into two physiological and anatomical regions: 1) the anterior half, the kinesodic system, made up of the anterolateral columns and ventral horns, and 2) the dorsal half, the aesthoesodic system, consisting of the posterior column and posterior horns. On this basis he discussed the localization of disease, considering first the two systems, and second the columns or horns within these systems. The advances made in New York in the diagnosis and surgical treatment of diseases of the spinal cord thus owe their origin to Seguin's clear, orderly, and concise teachings. He applied the same principles and methods with equal lucidity to the brain.

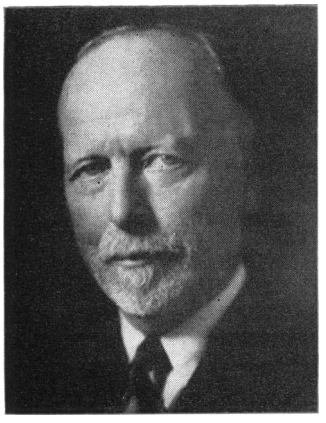
In addition to his teaching, Seguin made extensive contributions to the literature covering the entire field of diseases of the nervous system. His paper, "A Contribution to the Pathological Anatomy of Disseminated Cerebrospinal Sclerosis", in 1878, contained detailed histologic studies of the pons, medulla, and spinal cord, showing the early, the more advanced, and finally the most extensive expression of the disease. This was the first American autopsy report of disseminated sclerosis with detailed histologic studies. Among other publications which won for him a reputation as one of the foremost neurologists in the country were papers on "The Relationship of Headache to Choked Disc in

Tumor of the Brain"; "Infantile Paralysis"; "Hysterical Symptoms in Organic Nervous Disease"; "The Efficacy of Certain Drugs in the Treatment of Nervous Disease".

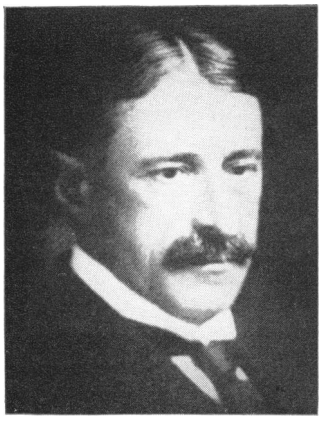
Seguin was also associated with the early days of the Vanderbilt Clinic. This institution, established in 1888 by the four sons of William H. Vanderbilt, with an amphitheatre large enough to accommodate four hundred, and material excelled only by the Salpetrière in Paris and the Charité in Berlin, became the primary source of neurological training in New York. The clinics started there by Edward Seguin after his return to America were later carried forward with great éclat by Allen Starr and Frederick Tilney. During each year, 50 or more forms of nervous and mental diseases were demonstrated and often four to ten patients with any particular disease. The Chiefs of Clinic carried on sectional teaching using the rich material of the clinics. Jelliffe and Brill said of the Vanderbilt Clinic, "After a somewhat extensive experience gained by visits and by exhaustive stays in a number of European clinics including those of London, Paris, Berlin, Munich, Zurich, Vienna, Rome, Naples and Brussels, we believe that, with few exceptions, the work of the clinic compares favourably with that done in the European clinics."

It was there that Joseph Collins, Pearce Bailey and Frederick Peterson, founders of the Neurological Institute, received much of their early training and inspiration in the art of neurology. They felt, however, the great need for a hospital where patients with neurological diseases could be more thoroughly studied and treated.

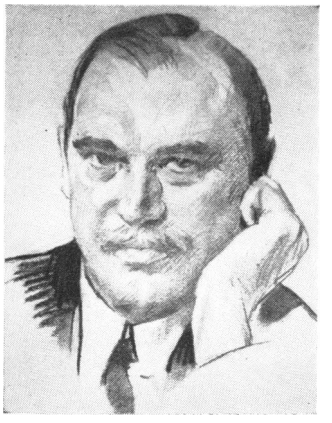
After long consideration of the possibility of such a hospital, it was determined to obtain the assistance of prominent business men in realizing this aim. Accordingly, on March 9, 1909, Dr. Collins issued an invitation to Mr. Isaac Townsend, Mr. Richard Williams, Mr. Adrian Iselin, Jr., Mr. Otto Kahn, Mr. H. H. Knapp, Mr. Paul Warburg, Dr. Lightner Whitman, and Mr. Robert P. Perkins to meet with him and Dr. Joseph Fraenkel at the Century Club on the evening of March 18 to study the question of providing a hospital in New York City for the care and treatment of nervous and mental diseases. They became the first Board of Trustees and agreed unanimously as to the need for such a hospital, with the result that an application for its establishment was filed with the State Board of Charities and, on April 14, 1909, a certificate of incorporation was granted.



JOSEPH COLLINS



PEARCE BAILEY



FREDERICK PETERSON

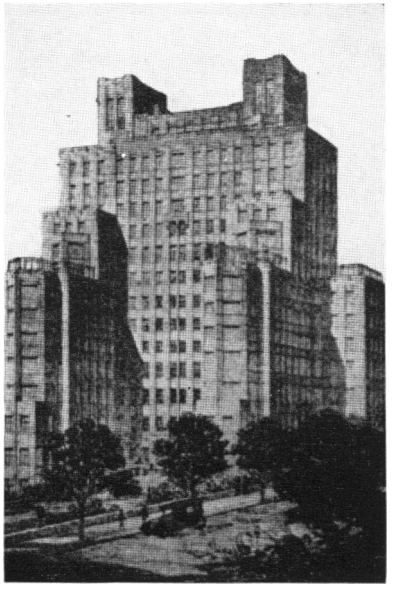
Dr. Collins and Dr. Fraenkel were joined by Dr. Pearce Bailey and on May 10, 1910, they drafted a lengthy letter to the Trustees pointing out not only the need of a special hospital devoted to diseases of the nervous system but also the fact that, in addition to those who received treatment, the country at large would benefit from such an institution. It was felt, indeed, that the undertaking would have failed in its chief object if it did not disseminate knowledge of the principles of neurology and act as a center of instruction for physicians who would come to it from all over the country. Copies of this letter were sent to the friends of the Trustees with a personal note, and to the New York newspapers.

Meanwhile a search for a building was under way, and on May 27, 1909, at a meeting in Mr. Richard Williams' office, approval was voted for leasing and putting in suitable condition the structure at 149-151 East 67th Street.

While neither Dr. Charles Elsberg nor Dr. Alfred Taylor was among the founders, they were active in their support of the hospital throughout their lives. Dr. Elsberg was invited to join the staff on December 13th, 1909, after the hospital had been opened, and Dr. Taylor shortly thereafter.

Dr. Collins spent the summer abroad, visiting various neurological clinics and studying their methods, with a view to incorporating the most recent advances in the work of the Neurological Institute. On November 29, 1909, an announcement of the opening of the Institute

NEUROLOGICAL INSTITUTE, 1909-1929

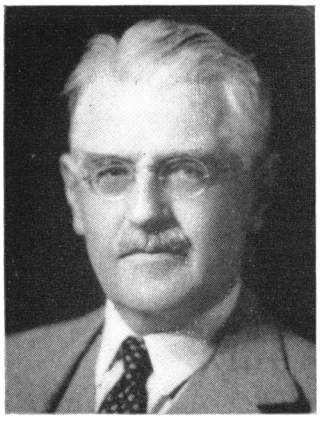


NEUROLOGICAL INSTITUTE, 1929-

was issued, describing it, in part, as follows:

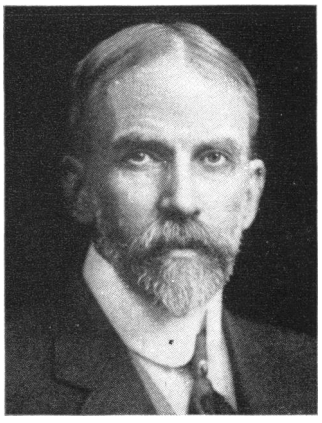
> "The Hospital consists of two wards, one for males and one for females, into which suitable cases will be received free of charge; of private wards in which the charge for care and treatment will be from ten to fifteen dollars a week; and of private rooms.
>
> "Except in emergency patients will be admitted to the wards of the hospital only after examination by one of the attending physicians. The hours for admission are from two to four daily, except Sundays and holidays.
>
> "The Dispensary will be open daily except Sundays and holidays, from two to four for charity cases only. During these hours one of the Medical Board and his assistants will be in attendance.
>
> "Physicians are invited to send patients suffering from nervous, mental and allied diseases to the dispensary for diagnosis and for treatment, or for admission to the wards. Patients bringing letters from their physicians requesting diagnosis or suggestions in regard to treatment will be referred to their physicians."

Thus the Neurological Institute began its pioneer work—the first hospital with laboratories and operating room facilities on the American continent devoted to diseases of the nervous system, where bedside instruction could be given. In this achievement Joseph Collins' vision,



ALFRED TAYLOR

CHARLES ELSBERG



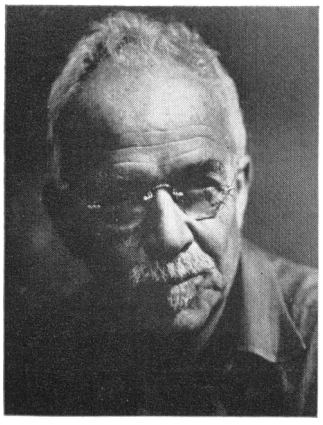
CHARLES LOOMIS DANA

Courtesy of The New York Academy of Medicine

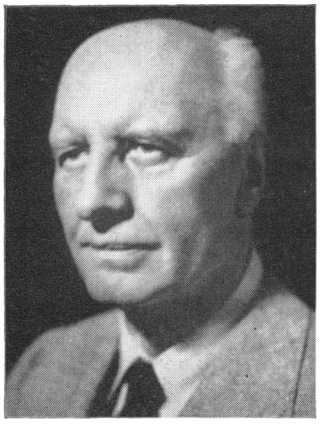
energy, and drive played a dominant role. His efforts in the early organization of the Institute and his continued devotion over the years led many of his colleagues to refer to it as "Dr. Collins' Hospital".

Joseph Collins attended the University of Michigan. While attempting to live on eighteen dollars a month, eight of which went for a room, he acquired pneumonia, followed by an unrecognized empyema which sapped his strength, preventing him from continuing his undergraduate studies. Despite having been forced to abandon his college work, he later entered New York University, from which he received his M.D. degree in 1888, and then studied abroad. On his return he worked in a number of dispensaries, becoming Professor of Neurology at the New York Post Graduate Medical School in 1897, which post he held until 1909, when he resigned to devote his full efforts to the newly founded Neurological Institute. He was a facile speaker and writer, publishing more than 100 papers as well as medical texts and books of a more literary character. In 1897 his *Genesis and Dissolution of the Faculty of Speech*, an elaborate and thorough study of aphasia, won for him the Alvarenga Prize of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. This book was followed by *Diseases of the Brain*, 1899; *The Treatment of Nervous Diseases*, 1909; *Pathology of Nervous Diseases*, 1901; *The Sympathetic Nervous System*, 1905; *The Way with Nerves*, 1911; and *Sleep and the Sleepless*, 1912.

Collins saw the patient as an individual. "What constitutes disease,"



EDWIN ZABRISKIE



FOSTER KENNEDY

WALTER TIMME

he wrote, "is not a lesion or an infection so much as a man who is in pain, fearful, and apprehensive. The latter, in most instances, should be treated, *not* the disease. . . . Apprehension halts nature, fear fetters her. The physician should not only thwart fear, he should engender courage. . . . The emotions are the motor power of life, the intellect the motor. . . . Two patients with the same symptoms are no more alike than two men who wear the same clothes. . . . Medical schools must eventually teach their students to cope with patients *and* disease, with the psychological problem *and* the pathological specimen." Collins' criticism of physicians was born of his own experiences when sick. Out of these experiences were forged many of his principles of practice. The physician, he felt, too often saw the pathological specimen which he presented, not the psychological problem. "I had attempted to work beyond my strength. I was the victim of the ardents and it required an ardent (Osler) to detect it."

Upon our entry into World War I in 1917, Pearce Bailey asked Collins for his assistance in putting into effect the Elimination Tests at officers' training camps. Collins gladly accepted the assignment, though reluctant to leave their "infant enterprise in 67th Street. Though it had cast off its swaddling clothes and was prancing about dressed conspicuously and becomingly, it still needed discipline and direction".

After a short time at officers' training camps, Collins assumed charge of the medical department of the American Red Cross in Italy. His

experiences in this post are covered in *My Italian Years*, published in 1919, followed in 1920 by *Idling in Italy*. While on one of his journeys through Italy he came upon a monument to Andrea Cesalpino (1519-1603), Professor of Medicine at the University of Pisa, whose discovery of the circulation of the blood is considered by the Italians to antedate Harvey's. Browsing through libraries, Collins finally obtained a copy of Cesalpino's work and wrote an interesting comment, entitled "A Neglected Worthy—Andrea Cesalpino." While Cesalpino apparently knew the circulation in theory, he performed no experiment to establish the fact, nor did he fully grasp its significance. His view had no effect upon medicine.

Dana speaks of Collins as one "whose qualities and character I hold high; among other reasons, because he does things not only for himself but for others; whose social gifts and genial wit outweigh the occasional bursts of a not completely repressed acerbity. I like a man who is not altogether perfect, for this justifies my own self esteem."

When Collins died in 1950, at the age of eighty-four, he left the major part of his estate, over a million dollars, as an endowment to help needy medical students. "I venture to hope that this foundation will give a helping hand to some young man or woman who finds himself in the predicament in which I found myself when I was obliged to turn to teaching in district schools to provide funds to continue my education in medicine."

Pearce Bailey, another of the founders of the Neurological Institute, was graduated from Princeton in 1886 and from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, in 1888, served an internship at St. Luke's, and followed this by study in Vienna and Paris. Bailey became Chief of Clinic at the Vanderbilt Clinic under Allen Starr and Adjunct Professor of Neurology at Columbia in 1906. Upon the founding of the Neurological Institute, he devoted his time mainly to that institution though serving as consultant at St. Luke's and a number of other hospitals.

Bailey's influence at the Neurological Institute has been described as that of a catalyst. Under his stimulation, the Laboratory School and the Classification Clinic were begun. His broad vision, practical common sense, and generous spirit were in constant evidence. He headed the New York State Commission for Mental Defectives, receiving special commendation from Governor Miller for his outstanding services.

Bailey's articles on crime and mental defectives received nation-wide notice, especially one which appeared in the *New York Tribune* entitled "Shall the State Kill Children?", referring to the electrocution by the state of two men with a mental age of six years. His book on *Diseases of the Nervous System Resulting from Accident and Injury*, first published in 1896, revised and enlarged in 1906 and again in 1909, remains an authoritative treatise.

Bailey's work in charge of the Division of Neuropsychiatry in the Surgeon General's office in World War I earned for him and for the service which he established the greatest admiration. The Elimination Tests which he had instituted to weed out the unstable and unfit proved to be most valuable and served as a pattern for similar tests adopted by our allies. These had been preceded by an interesting study, "Efficiency and Inefficiency—a Problem in Medicine". The success of the Division of Neuropsychiatry was largely due to Bailey's ability to judge men, to his organizing genius, and his foresight. For his achievement he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal on March 12, 1921: "For exceptionally meritorious and distinguished service as Chief of the Division of Neuropsychiatry, Surgeon General's Office, in which capacity he displayed exceptional zeal, foresight, and good judgment in organizing, developing and directing neuropsychiatric work in the Army on a high plane of efficiency."

In the development of the Neurological Institute, Bailey gave unstintingly of his time and energy. His rounds with his staff were seldom missed by any of the members. He was an exponent not only of the art of neurology but of the art of teaching as well. A great part of his time at the bedside was spent in obtaining a complete history; in his view the neurological examination was secondary, the history all important. The comments of his contemporaries are enlightening. Timme said: "Nothing was more characteristic of him, after some long defense of a far-fetched fanciful diagnosis by some member of his staff at rounds, than his smiling indulgent query 'Do you really believe it yourself?'" Peterson said: "His intellect, his wit and his humor have lent a charm to our gatherings. He was respected and admired for his integrity, fearless independence of thinking and for his great courage with which he bore many sorrows."

Bailey's psychological study of Voltaire is of special interest. "Voltaire," he wrote, "possessed better than anyone, the capacity to look

things in the face, and in spite of what he saw there, to maintain with humility the high level of his constructive mental energy. It would be hard to find a more exacting test of intellect and courage than that—to contemplate correctly the verities, and still show undismayed the feelings and actions of an optimist." Those who knew Bailey would recognize in these words a startlingly accurate description of the working of his own mind. These tenets could with equal justice be applied to him.

Joseph Fraenkel, also active in the founding of the Neurological Institute, was born in Russia and came to this country from Vienna, where he received his medical education. He landed in America friendless and nearly penniless, and accepted a post in pathology at the Montefiore Home. In one of the dispensaries he worked with Collins, who found him to have excellent clinical insight and judgment. By virtue of his intellectual honesty, kindliness, and industry he won, in a short time, a commanding practice among wealthy members of the community.

Fraenkel's interests, however, eventually turned to endocrinology; his publications were few, and his influence upon neurology in New York, and particularly upon the Neurological Institute, was negligible if not detrimental. Though one of the original founders of the Institute, he resigned in less than a year, taking with him several of the wealthiest and most generous of the trustees. He had proposed that none of the physicians connected with the Institute be allowed to engage in private practice and that fees be collected by the hospital, which in turn would pay the physicians a salary. This was unacceptable. As a result of his resignation and the withdrawal of several of the wealthy trustees who had been his patients, the institute faced a serious crisis, which fortunately was met by the immediate backing and support of Dr. Charles Dana and Dr. Frederick Peterson.

When Frederick Peterson and Charles Dana stepped into the breach caused by the resignation of Dr. Fraenkel and several of the Board of Trustees in December 1911, they brought to the hospital a stabilizing influence and an unswerving devotion. Dr. Peterson took over direction of the Second Division, from which Fraenkel had resigned, and Dr. Dana became a member of the Board of Trustees.

Frederick Peterson, born in Minnesota in 1859, early decided to become a physician and in 1879 acquired his M.D. degree from the University of Buffalo. After three years of graduate study in Vienna, Zurich, and Strassburg, he returned to America to accept the chair of

pathology at the University of Buffalo. His real interest, however, lay in psychiatry, and in 1885 he joined the State Hospital Service as assistant physician at the Hudson River State Hospital, Poughkeepsie, where he remained for three years. In order to have actual contact with the insane, he believed it important to live with them, and during this period he never left the hospital. Useful occupations were introduced, interests stimulated, and opportunities provided for the patients. Peterson was instrumental in having the name Hospital substituted for Asylum, thus impressing upon the public that mental disorder is a sickness like any other disease. He was the first to advocate a psychopathic hospital for New York City, and in 1901 secured from the city a grant of land at Beekman Place for this purpose.

When, in 1888, Peterson came to New York, he served as Chief of Clinic under Allen Starr at the Vanderbilt Clinic, becoming Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Columbia in 1903. From 1901 to 1904 he served as President of the New York State Lunacy Commission, in which his administrative ability brought order out of chaos. His appointment of Adolph Meyer as Director of the Psychiatric Institute of the New York State Hospitals in 1903 furthered the scientific progress of the entire State Hospital system.

With Josiah Letchworth in 1890, Peterson founded Craig Colony for Epileptics and, as President of the Board of Managers, was largely responsible for its development, maintaining an interest in its affairs throughout his life.

In 1907 he worked with Jung for two months, though he held many reservations concerning some of the psychoanalytic methods. Sachs said of him: "He refused to be taken off his feet by some of the fantastic doctrines of the day."

Peterson urged "medical students and practitioners not to be so overwhelmed with mechanics and half truths that they lose the power of close clinical observation. . . . I met a patient who had had most of these tests tried on him and he said the experience was most impressive. I asked what the doctor had done for him as a result of these labors. He said: 'He gave me rhubarb and soda, and when I told him that is just what my doctor had given me long ago, he said it was not rationalized, not scientific. Then I replied: Rationalized rhubarb is having a wonderful cathartic effect on my pocketbook.' "

The Child Health Organization was especially dear to Peterson, who

conceived it and maintained an active role in it. "We need but ten minutes of health instruction in our schools—these reach the young child, become a part of him, and affect his whole attitude toward life. . . . The health span of life must be increased, not the span of life with ill health and decrepitude."

Many neuropsychiatric contributions were made by Peterson in addition to his *Textbook of Nervous and Mental Diseases*, which went through nine editions. With Haines he wrote a *Textbook of Legal Medicine and Toxicology* which held a high position in its field.

Peterson was deeply interested in Chinese literature and art, with which he surrounded himself. His *Chinese Lyrics*, printed with reproductions of Chinese art in 1916 under the pseudonym of Pai-ta-shun, was highly praised as the work of a Chinese poet unusually gifted in English. The University of Pennsylvania conferred an honorary Doctor of Laws upon Dr. Peterson on February 22, 1919. The citation read: "Eminent psychiatrist and author of profound works upon the most mysterious mental diseases—lecturer in medical jurisprudence and in toxicology—poet of distinction to whom the literary world is also indebted for hidden gems from the Swedish and Chinese literatures."

Sachs informs us that in May 1938, in Pasadena, Kirsten Flagstad sang Peterson's beloved song "The Sweetest Flower That Grows", before a large audience including the composer, James H. Rogers, and the poet. As the last notes of her wondrous voice died away, Peterson turned to his wife and murmured: "Now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace."

These are the men who built a strong foundation for neurology, and through their vision and foresight created the Neurological Societies in New York and established the Neurological Institute. Their labor has given us a heritage rich in tradition and high in purpose and to us they have bequeathed the challenge of carrying their ideals to even greater fulfillment. To them we are grateful.

The author regrets that neither time nor space permits him to record the many invaluable contributions to New York neurology and to the Neurological Institute of Drs. Starr, Dana, Elsberg, Zabriskie, Kennedy, and Timme. It is hoped that their influential role may be the subject of a future report.

The author wishes to express his appreciation of the invaluable help given by the entire staff of the Library of The New York Academy of Medicine in the search for source material and to Mrs. Weaver and Miss Thrall for their assistance in arranging the historical exhibit shown in the entrance foyer of the Academy.

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