DR. CHARLES HOWARD PECK

Dr. Charles H. Peck made a particularly notable contribution to practical surgery and to good citizenship.

He inherited the sturdy qualities of the New England pioneer. He applied his great talents to the developing and practicing of surgery and he was always a broad-minded citizen, interested in the affairs of the Commonwealth and striving for the high ideals which were a part of his nature.

After a general course of study in the schools of his native town, Newtown, Connecticut, and the completion of the prescribed course of medical study in the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York, he was graduated in 1892 with the highest honor which that institution then gave, the first Harsen Prize.

His three years' internship in the New York Hospital included both medical and surgical training. The good record which he made there resulted in his appointment as Attending Surgeon to the then recently-established French Hospital in 1897. He was then only twenty-seven years old and only two years had elapsed since his hospital internship.

With the advantages of this position, his general executive ability and his marked surgical talent soon led to the establishment of a valuable surgical service. He there made a notable contribution to the surgery of rectal cancer. He appreciated the possibility of ligating the protruding end of a well-mobilized upper segment of intestine and thus promoting the cleanliness of the wound during the first twenty-four or forty-eight hours of its healing. He found the procedure practicable and thus really established an epoch in the treatment of the disease. He continued his work at the French Hospital with marked success until 1909.

In 1903 he was appointed Assistant Surgeon to the Roosevelt Hospital. Three years later he was appointed Junior Surgeon, and in 1909 he became Attending Surgeon in that institution. Thus, at the age of thirty-nine, he was placed in control of a particularly important surgical service. He conducted this service with marked success for seventeen years, and made many contributions to the development of surgical science, particularly in the surgery of the stomach, the large intestine and the spleen.

At America's entrance into the World War he organized the Mackay Unit of the Roosevelt Hospital, which later made a notable record in carrying on the work of Base Hospital No. 15 at Chaumont, France. He was appointed Senior Consultant in General Surgery to the A. E. F. and was later recalled to this country to be one of the chiefs of the Department of General Surgery at Washington. He received the Distinguished Service Medal from the United States Government in 1919, and was twice similarly honored by France.

He was Professor of Clinical Surgery in Columbia University for many years.

He was active in the work of the Academy of Medicine, serving as Chairman of the Surgical Section and as Vice-President of the Academy. He also served as President of the County Medical Society. He was a member of many surgical societies and was consulting surgeon to several hospitals.

He was interested in forestry, in farming, and the other enjoyments of country life. He maintained a model farm and a valuable herd of Guernsey cattle at Newtown, Connecticut, and kept up public-spirited and helpful interests in the life of the community.

His family life was particularly happy, but the death of his eldest son while in the war service in France was greatly mourned.

He had a peculiar charm of personality. One of his associates said he never heard anyone "knock Peck." His kindness, thoughtfulness, generosity and general helpfulness and fairness were most noteworthy. He had a host of friends, and those who knew him intimately and the many young men whom he trained in surgery were his loyal admirers.

CHARLES N. DOWD