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MEDICAL HISTORY

AUSTIN MAURICE CURTIS, 1868-1939

DR. AUSTIN MAURICE CURTIS, whose cover portrait on this issue of the *Journal* was drawn by our staff artist, Mrs. Naida Willette Page, was the youngest of a group of leaders at the turn of the Century which Perry[1] called the "Big Four" of Negro medicine. The other three were Dr. Daniel Hale Williams of Chicago (1856-1931),[2] Dr. Nathan Francis Mossell of Philadelphia (1856-1946),[3] and Dr. George Cleveland Hall of Chicago (1864-1930).[4] Dr. Curtis was a surgeon and a protegé of Dan Williams. His medical career began in Chicago and developed to fruition in Washington, D. C. He was surgeon-in-chief of Freedmen's Hospital from 1898 to 1902, professor of surgery at Howard University from 1928 to 1938 and president of the National Medical Association in 1911-12. Dr. Curtis was the first interne in the first voluntary Negro hospital and the first of his race to hold a staff appointment in a non-segregated hospital and a chair of surgery in an approved medical school.

Dr. Curtis' three sons also became physicians and passed under his tutelage in Howard Medical School. Because of this he became known as Dr. "A. M." or more familiarly as "Pop" Curtis to distinguish him from his eldest son the late Arthur (M.D., '12), his second son Maurice (M.D., '14), and the youngest, Merrill (M.D., '32). Dr. Merrill Curtis took a D.D.S. and practiced dentistry for several years before entering medicine.

During Dr. Curtis' lifetime Chicago and Washington were important centers of the Negro medical ghetto[5] and he was near the heart of many of its turbulent churnings. He knew in his time both triumph and adversity and took them each in even stride. The advancement of professional standards and ethics were always of deep concern to him and there are many alive today who remember his contributions to them.

Austin M. Curtis was born January 15, 1868, in Raleigh, North Carolina, the son of Alexander W. and Eleanora Patilla Curtis. He was one of nine children. His mother was 90 years old at his death. He received his preliminary education in the public schools of Raleigh, North Carolina, after which he went to Lincoln University, Pennsylvania, where he received the A.B. in 1888, and three years later graduated with the M.D. from Northwestern University in 1891.

In the year of Dr. Curtis' graduation, Dr. Daniel Hale Williams established Provident Hospital in Chicago and Dr. Curtis became the first interne there. His contact with Dr. Williams was very close and in addition to assisting in Dr. Williams' operations he was also his companion at luncheon in the hospital and assisted with various professional chores.[6]

Upon completion of his interneship at Provident Hospital in 1892 Dr. Curtis became a surgeon on its visiting staff and entered practice in Chicago. The Conservator, a contemporary colored newspaper of Chicago, states that for many years it had been the aim and aspiration of colored physicians to secure an appointment upon the staff of the Cook County Hospital. There was considerable competition among white physicians for the few appointments available each year, which were made by the County Commissioners. When a Negro, Theodore W. Jones, was elected a County Commissioner, there was disappointment that no colored physician was named to the staff of Cook County during Mr. Jones' first year in office. He promised, however, that one would be named during his second year. This promise was kept. On January 6, 1896 Dr. Curtis was appointed to the surgical staff of Cook County Hospital.[7] This is the first instance of present record in which a colored physician had been appointed to the staff of a so-called white hospital. Dr. Curtis was the formal choice of the colored physicians for the post. He came to be selected in the following manner. In December of 1895 Commissioner Jones inserted a notice in the Conservator which read:

TO CHICAGO COLORED PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS

All colored physicians and surgeons of Chicago are earnestly requested to meet at my office Saturday night Dec. 28th at 8 P.M. for consultation upon the appointment of one of their number upon the Medical Staff of Cook County Hospital.

Respectfully,
Theodore W. Jones
2221 Cottage Grove Ave.

There were about fifteen Negro physicians in Chicago at the time and the following twelve were present at the meeting: Drs. A. A. Wesley, George Hall, Golden, A. M. Curtis, E. Miller, Perry, C. McCallister, J. Webb Curtis, F. H. Lawther, Lane, J. N. Croker and E. E. Barr. Mr. E. H. Morris and Mr. F. L. Barnett were also in attendance.

Mr. Jones stated briefly that he had called the doctors together to ask them to submit to him the name of the

man of their choice for the appointment the Commissioners proposed to make. He suggested that the doctors meet by themselves without his presence, but the group decided to make their selection at once. Secret ballot was decided upon with Messrs. Morris and Barnett acting as tellers. To limit the field an informal primary ballot was taken which showed that there would be two candidates. On this informal ballot Dr. J. N. Croker received seven votes and Dr. A. M. Curtis five. We now transcribe the story verbatim from the article in the Conservator reporting it:

Then came the contest in earnest. The first ballot showed Croker 6 Curtis 6.

Good natured convassing then began but was cut short by order for a third ballot. Still the result Croker 6 Curtis 6.

Matters were growing interesting and all watched anxiously for the next ballot which was called for and it showed Croker 6 Curtis 6.

Talk of a deadlock was plentiful but all went up to the fifth ballot in the best of humor. It showed Croker 6 Curtis 6.

Time was then called and a motion was made for a ten minutes recess. Motion was carried. Then the doctors talked the situation over and discussed with each candidate's supporters about the situation. When time was called again the ballots were issued. The recess had made a convert as the sixth ballot showed Curtis 7, Croker 5.

The ballot was then verified to the satisfaction of all present, and Dr. Lawther moved to make the selection of Dr. Curtis, the unanimous choice of all present. The motion was carried unanimously and all heartily congratulated the fortunate candidate.

Dr. Curtis then notified Commissioner Jones that he chose to take place upon the surgical staff after which the meeting adjourned, with the most cordial feeling and endorsement of the action of the Commissioner.

Dr. Curtis remained in Chicago two years longer until 1898, when he was appointed surgeon-in-chief of Freedmen's Hospital. He then came to Washington, D. C. where he spent the balance of his life.

Daniel Hale Williams was a very able and meticulous man. He was an accomplished and respected surgeon and had high standards of professional discipline. Dr. Curtis thus had opportunity to acquire a solid foundation in surgery through his close association with Dr. Williams, which lasted from 1891 until Dr. Williams came to Washington to head Freedmen's in 1894. Beyond this Dr. Curtis was largely self-trained, after the manner of the day. One got to be a surgeon then through the practice in the art which a hospital appointment afforded. His survival in the field was directly related to the survival of his patients and the informal opinion of his colleagues as to his abilities.

Dr. Curtis atttained significant stature as a surgeon before leaving Chicago. Interesting testimony of this fact is provided by the following reproduction of an article in the Chicago Journal and Evening Press for December 14, 1895:

DEATH-PROOF SKULL

"BILLY SPOOKS" POSSESSES A MOST REMARKABLE HEAD

Pitchfork Has Been Thrust Through It, a Beer Bottle Has Crushed It, and a Cleaver Has Split It in Twain, but the Descendant of Ham Is Alive and Well.

Dr. A. M. Curtis, attending physician at Provident hospital Twenty-ninth and Dearborn streets, is enjoying a great deal of popularity among his people because of a surgical operation which he lately performed on a patient to whom he jokingly alludes as "the man with the cleaver, pitchfork, and beer-bottle proof head."

William Green, or, as the colored people call him, "Billy Spooks," is the unfortunate individual who has thus unceremoniously leaped into popularity.

A short time ago, while working in a restaurant at 2956 State street, Green's skull was smashed in with a butcher's cleaver during a quarrel with a colored cook. The belligerent cook escaped, while Green, blinded with blood and crazed with pain, staggered to the hospital, where it was announced that he could not live. Meanwhile, the police were scouring the city for the sanguinary cook.

Now comes the strangest part of the story.

When Dr. Curtis arrived at the hospital he recognized Green as an old patient whose head he had dressed twice before—once when the man's skull had been crushed with a beer bottle and again when a pitchfork had been run into his cranium. Therefore the doctor had hopes for Green's recovery. He made a careful examination of the wound and found that Green had received a compound fracture of the skull five inches long and one inch wide. The covering of the brain had been torn, the artery of the brain severed, and it was only with great difficulty that it could be tied. Pieces of the bone had crashed into the brain and these had to be removed before the artery could be got at.

Never before had a colored surgeon attempted such an operation. Dr. Curtis attempted such an operation. Dr. Curtis recognized his opportunity, and calling in Drs. G. C. Hall, E. E. Barr, A. W. Williams, and Dr. Borst of the Physicians' and Surgeons' college to witness his work, he proceeded to operate.

It was a dark Sunday afternoon, and Dr. Borst held a light for Dr. Curtis to work by, while the other physicians simply looked on. After three hours of hard work the operation was finished. Dr. Curtis feared that his patient could not survive the shock, but, to the surprise of everybody, "Spooks" got well and was back at his restaurant working in ten days. Dr. Curtis kept pieces of the man's skull, and now, "Spooks" wears some of them in his pocket for good luck.

Dr. Curtis declares that "Spooks" head is proof against anything but dynamite, and "Spooks" has faith in the doctor's ability to get his famous head together properly, even if it were blown into fine atoms, while the colored people believe that both the good doctor and his erstwhile patient are entitled to prominent positions in the everlasting temple of fame.

When it came to pass that Dr. Curtis was appointed to succeed his former chief Dr. Dan Williams as surgeon-in-chief of Freedmen's Hospital, there was a considerable amount of public discussion on the subject. Dr. Curtis had stood second in the Civil Service examination held for the post. A quotation from a contemporary Negro periodical called "All About Us," Vol. 1, No. 24, (published every Saturday, T. P. Rawlings, Editor), will serve to portray the nature of this discussion.* The quotation, unsigned, is from the front page of the issue of May 22, 1897. It reads:

And now, I desire to call your attention to another subject, one that at present is no less interesting to Washingtonians than to Illinoisans. I refer, Mr. Editor, to the discussion now going on in our colored newspapers relative to the Freedman Hospital appointment.

* The *Journal* has previously published biographical sketches of the men mentioned in this article (see Charles Burleigh Purvis, January 1953; Daniel Hale Williams, September 1953 and September 1944; and George Cleveland Hall, May 1954).

It is clear to my mind that the jingoism and pig-headed one-sidedness displayed in this discussion is not due so much to ignorance of the subject as to a desire on the part of the writers to offer an affront to one of America's most learned surgeons, Dr. A. M. Curtis. It is an unjust criticism provoked by green-eyed jealousy; and the parties to it, not content with having accused the doctor and his friends falsely, have now assailed his innocent wife—the unkindest cut of all! And all, apparently, because the doctor has not consulted their wishes, has not fawned at their feet, has not [asked their advice on a matter over which they not only have no jurisdiction but in which even their recommendations would not count for as much to him as would an eggshell to a drowning man at sea.

Dr. D. H. Williams, efficient though he be, cannot remain through this administration, as surgeon-in-chief of the Freedmen's Hospital, and well do all the parties to this discussion know it. And moreover, Mr. Editor, they know that they do Dr. Curtis an injustice when they set up that he is trying to have Dr. Williams removed by saying he is a democrat. Everybody knows that Dr. Purvis was removed from office, because he was an obnoxious republican and that Dr. Williams begun his reign under a democratic administration, and further, that that administration thought to keep him in office by tying him up in civil service red tape.

Any ways, whether he is a republican or democrat he must move. If he is a democrat, good reason why; if a republican then because he is guilty of having, spent four years in bad company.

But then, Mr. Editor, since Dr. Williams must go, what is the matter with Dr. Curtis filling the vacancy? And why should he be dubbed a "pot house politician" because he aspires to do so? Dr. Curtis is an American citizen and has as much right to hold office as any man. And furthermore, the Freedmen's Hospital depends for its support upon the bounty of the United States Government, the Government that Dr. Curtis, in common with the rest of us, helps to keep alive, and therefore has a right to ask of it anything he will.

And as for his wife, she is one of the brainiest women in America, capable of filling any position and as to whether she accepts one on the the National Campaign committee or otherwise should not be made a matter of unholy comment in order to lessen her husband's chances of becoming the next surgeon-in-chief of the Freedman's hospital.

The white papers, reliably informed, have given it out that Dr. A. M. Curtis will be the next surgeon-in-chief of the Freedmen's Hospital; but the Washington Bee and the great Chicago Conservator, colored papers, contend that the doctor doesn't stand a ghost of a show. Why is this? Is it because he has not elected to pay for them for their worthless space; or on the other hand, are they trying to "shake" the doctor down? If they are they have gone about their work in a most bunglesome manner.

Dr. A. M. Curtis is one of the most popular colored physicians in Chicago as will be seen from the following opinions expressed by the leading doctors of the city.

Dr. E. E. Barr expressed himself without stint. Said he: 'I am anxious to see Dr. Curtis get the position he seeks. He has the united support of the colored physicians of Chicago, and I hope he will receive the appointment. Furthermore, he is a clean man and no reflections can be cast upon his method of seeking the office.'

Dr. George C. Hall has this to say: 'If there is any efficacy in civil service examinations, Dr. Curtis will undoubtedly receive the appointment. And I desire to say further that editors of newspapers are in no way competent to pass judgment upon the qualifications of medical men.'

Dr. A. L. Smith who is the present house physician at Provident Hospital has this to say: 'I am in a position to know that among all the operating surgeons at this institution, Dr. Curtis is one of the most skilled; and I sincerely hope that he will be able to broaden his sphere by becoming the next surgeon-in-chief of the Freedmen's Hospital.

Dr. A. W. Williams is hearty in his support and believes the newspapers have been unfair. Said he: 'I have been intimately associated with Dr. Curtis for the past five years and have a high regard for him. He is unquestionably one of the best qualified surgeons in this, or any other city and it is but a just recognition of his worth to make him the next surgeon-in-chief of the Freedmen's Hospital.'

Dr. J. W. Curtis* says: 'Why bless you, Dr. Curtis is not only one of the best surgeons in Chicago but is one of the most successful; and he will be the next surgeon-in-chief of the Freedmen's Hospital, too—I have it on good authority and am proud of his success.'

Dr. E. S. Miller says: 'First of all, Dr. Curtis is a gentleman as can be seen from the manner of his campaign. As for his qualifications they need no recommendation from me —his work shows. He has successfully performed more delicate operations than any colored surgeon in this city. And as surgeon-in-chief of the Freedman's Hospital he will not only do credit to himself but to the entire race. Dr. Curtis is one of the progressive men of this age and therefore is the sort of man we want in the foreground of every scene.'

'In my opinion, says Dr. A. F. Perry, Dr. A. M. Curtis is not only a very excellent physician, but is also a very fine surgeon. His candidacy for surgeon-in-chief of the Freedman's Hospital in Washington, D. C. meets my hearty endorsement.'

He held the Freedmen's post until 1902, when he returned to private practice, setting up offices in the city of his adoption. While in practice Dr. Curtis served in turn as assistant professor, associate professor and professor and head of the Department of Surgery in Howard University. This covered a span of 40 years, from 1898 until his retirement in 1938.

Throughout much of his career in Washington he was acknowledged the leading Negro surgeon of the city, an honor he later shared with a gifted colleague fourteen years his junior, Dr. Simeon Lewis Carson. Dr. Curtis also established a national reputation as a surgeon of high competence.†

Dr. Curtis was always a courageous but never a reckless operator. He laid greatest emphasis upon accuracy in diagnosis and was thoroughly given to rehearsing in respect to the symptoms of any case, the features of all similar cases which he had seen or heard of. In the day when the laboratory was not developed and radiology still in swaddling clothes, the physician depended chiefly upon the observations he himself could make for diagnosis. A Curtis aphorism which had become traditional among Howard students by the time of the writer's medical school days was, "Diagnosis must depend upon the preponderance of symptoms."

Dr. Curtis' forte as a teacher, however, was at the bedside and the operating table, rather than in the lecture room. With the patient before him and surrounded by a group of students he was a skillful demonstrator. In the surgical amphitheatre he was at pains to explain his procedures step by step so that students and physicians alike would always go away feeling they had learned something from watching him operate.

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* Cousin of Dr. A. M. Curtis.

† See p. 298 in this issue of the *Journal*, where article from the New York Post of August 27, 1908, cites Dr. Curtis as performing "an operation of unusual importance," at the 14th Annual Convention of the National Medical Association in New York.

The Negro surgeon in Washington as elsewhere has had to carve his way forward by operating under the most primitive conditions. In the early days, Negro patients who did not care to go to Freedmen's had either to be operated on in the home or give up their colored physician to go into a white hospital where they might be indifferently treated by their white surgeon and were generally disrespectfully treated by the white nurses. Many such patients chose to risk the surgery at home. Dr. Curtis performed a major abdominal operation upon the writer's grandmother, when he was a small boy, on a table in the upstairs backroom of their home. A trained nurse, Miss Coates, was the only assistant and a colleague, Dr. Robert H. Tyler, administered the anesthetic with a cone and a can of ether. The lady survived her surgeon to die at the age of 96.

Dr. Curtis enjoyed an excellent reputation for attention to his individual patients. Like most surgeons of the time he had also to be a thorough general practitioner. He was, for example, the obstetrician at the writer's entry on the planet, a few days later performed upon him the most ancient and universal of operations, prescribed infant feeding and some years afterward attended him through a case of scarlatina.

Diagnostic problems were always a challenge to Dr. Curtis. When the writer was an interne and on Dr. Curtis' service there was one day brought in a child of about three referred by a practitioner in the city as a possible case of appendicitis. The case was very atypical and every surgeon on the staff examined the little girl without any decision being reached. The child was obviously sick but there was no clear-cut indication for operation. For the better part of two days Dr. Curtis seemed to do little else than watch this case. Then late in the afternoon as Dr. "A.M.," the late Dr. William Wilson and the writer, as interne, were scrutinizing the little abdomen for some positive sign, a single peristaltic wave fluttered across the abdomen near the umbilicus. This was for Dr. Curtis the clincher. Immediately he ordered the patient upstairs for operation and hurriedly explained the previous experience and reading which enabled him to pass judgment on what he had just seen. He continued his discourse during the scrubbing-up. A few moments later Dr. Curtis held up to his assistants, Dr. Wilson and the writer, a very inflamed appendix. In due course a happy little girl trotted away with her mother.

Following the pattern set by Dan Williams, Dr. Curtis came to be in demand for demonstration clinics to other Negro physicians in widely scattered areas. He operated frequently in several places in West Virginia and in many localities in the South.

Like many other places, Washington for long had no hospital in which Negro physicians could treat private patients. As elsewhere, the proprietary hospital came into being as a limited solution to this problem. The first of these in the District of Columbia was operated around the turn of the century by Dr. John R. Francis, at his house on Pennsylvania Avenue. The second was maintained by Dr. Simeon L. Carson as Carson's private hospital at 1844 Fourth Street, N.W., from 1919 to 1938. In collaboration with his son the late Dr. Arthur L. Curtis, Dr. "A.M." operated the Curtis private surgical sanitarium at 1927 Seventeenth Street, N.W., from 1925 to 1933.

Dr. Curtis was a man of medium stature, lean, and possessed of tremendous energy and dynamic personality. His deep, sonorous voice booming out to associates as he walked along with short, quick strides, daily announced his presence on the wards of Freedmen's Hospital to ten generations of Howard students. His vitality was infectious and radiated to his aides. In appearance he was always immaculate and sartorially correct. His bronzed visage bore clear imprint of his Indian ancestry and had a natural dignity enhanced by a well trimmed goatee. He always looked the part of the distinguished physician. He was among the early to choose the automobile for regular transportation and the series of Paige cars which he used successively had a dash which blended well with his personality. The writer recalls that he was quite a local hero to the small boys of his neighborhood because it was reputed that on many occasions he had been able to maintain the phenomenal speed of 40 miles an hour over considerable distances on the old fashioned roads of the day.

Dr. Ulysses Grant Dailey, of Chicago, himself a distinguished surgeon and elder statesman of the National Medical Association, is a brother-in-law of Dr. Curtis and was born seventeen years after him. Like Dr. Curtis, Dr. Dailey was a protegé of Dan Williams. He has frequently acknowledged that next to Dr. Williams he gained professional inspiration and ideals from Dr. Curtis.

In the year of his graduation as a physician, 1891, Dr. Curtis married Miss Namoyoka Gertrude Sockum of Oakland, California, who was then seventeen years of age. In addition to their three sons there was also born to them a daughter, now Mrs. Gertrude Curtis Norris of Paterson, New Jersey.

Mrs. Curtis was an outstanding figure in her own right. She was a warm hearted, forceful personality with manifold interests and activities. Although the latter carried her much into public affairs, she was strongly individualistic in her attitudes toward social conventions and loved to retreat to the family summer home at Arundel-on-the-Bay, near Annapolis, Md., where she could completely flaunt them. For a number of years she was active in partisan politics and was at one time associated with the National Republican Committee. Her work in the organizing of nursing services during the Spanish-American War earned for her the right to be buried in Arlington National Cemetery where she was interred in 1935 four years before the death of Dr. Curtis. She was a strong and loyal supporter of her husband in all that he did throughout their marriage.

Dr. Curtis also gave himself to many activities outside the profession. He was at one time president of the Chicago Society Baseball League, every member of which was stated to be a leader of Chicago's colored "400." Dr. Curtis was also an organizer of the Civic League of Chicago of which Dr. George C. Hall was president.

The object of the league was "to help worthy colored people attain to a higher mode of life, but to surpress crime."

In Washington Dr. Curtis served as a director of the Mu-So-Lit Club and was a staunch supporter of the YMCA. He gave very generously of his time to the Twelfth Street Branch there. The writer at the age of eight was a member of a class of boys of this age group in first-aid and bandaging which Dr. Curtis taught at the "Y" in 1912-13. The writer learned more about bandaging from the fine demonstrations given by Dr. Curtis than he did in medical school, where there was no place on the curriculum for such a subject.

During all the years of his sojourn in Washington, Dr. Curtis had on the wall of his office a framed anonymous quotation which read:

DUM VIVIMUS VIVAMUS

Do not keep the alabaster box of your love and tenderness sealed up until your friends are dead. Fill their lives with sweetness. Speak approving, cheering words while their ears can hear them and while their hearts can be thrilled and made happier by them. The kind things you mean to say when they are gone, say before they go. The flowers you mean to send for their coffins, send to brighten and sweeten their homes before they leave them. If my friends have alabaster boxes laid away full of fragrant perfumes of sympathy and affection, which they intend to break over my dead body, I would rather they would bring them out in my weary and troubled hours, and open them that I may be refreshed and cheered by them while I need them. I would rather have a plain coffin without a flower, a funeral without a eulogy, than a life without the sweetness of love and sympathy. Let us learn to anoint our friends beforehand for burial. Post-mortem kindness does not cheer the burdened spirit. Flowers on the coffin cast no fragrance backward over the weary way.

This would seem to express his personal philosophy completely.

Dr. Curtis departed this life at his home in Washinton, D.C. on July 13, 1939. A framed portrait of him hangs in the foyer of Howard Medical School and his memory is further perpetuated through the Austin M. Curtis Memorial Lecture sponsored annually by the Department of Surgery of Howard University and the Curtis family.

PUBLICATIONS OF DR. CURTIS

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2. Ectopic Gestation with Special Reference to the Operative Technique, J.N.M.A., *3*:7-14, 1911.
3. Acute Exudative Nephritis in Children, J.N.M.A., *3*:306-312, 1911.
4. A Symposium on Chronic Appendicitis. Freedmen's Hospital Bulletin, *1*:5-7, 1932 (Sr. author with Robert S. Jason, et al.)

W. MONTAGUE COBB, M.D.
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THE 1908 NMA CONVENTION

The article below is reproduced verbatim from the New York Evening Post of August 27, 1908.

NEGRO DOCTOR'S "CLINIC DAY"

Operations Incidental to Medical Association's Convention

Yesterday was "clinic day" with the National Medical Association of colored physicians, surgeons, dentists, and pharmacists, which is still in session at the Plaza Assembly Rooms, No. 110 East Fifty-ninth Street. The entire body gathered at Lincoln Hospital, One hundred and Forty-first Street and Southern Boulevard, where the exercises began at 9 A.M. and continued until afternoon.

An operation of unusual importance, involving a new system of abdominal surgery, was performed by Dr. A. M. Curtis of Washington, D. C., formerly surgeon-in-chief of Freedmen's Hospital. Another notable operation on the breast was performed by Dr. Daniel H. Williams of Chicago, also at one time surgeon-in-chief at Freedmen's Hospital in Washington. Dr. Williams introduced John E. Hunter of Lexington, Ky., who gave some valuable experiments in major surgery, each indicating a mastery of highly delicate situations.

At the Plaza, the following programme was carried out in the afternoon, with Dr. John R. Francis, a leading practitioner of Washington, D. C., in the chair:

Paper, "Obstetrics and Some Obstetrical Problems," H. F. Gamble, M.D., Charleston, W. Va.

Discussion, by J. J. France, M.D., Portsmouth, Va.

Paper, "The Treatment of Inguinal Adenitis," Robert J. Abele, M.D., Philadelphia, Pa.

Discussion, by C. L. Carter, M.D., Harrisburg, Pa.

Paper, "Experimental Surgery," A. M. Brown, M.D., Birmingham, Ala.

Discussion, by Willis E. Sterrs, M.D., Decatur, Ala.

Paper, "A Plea for Suggestive Therapy," W. J. Parks, M.D., Asbury Park, N. J.

Discussion, by W. W. Wolfe, M.D., Newark, N. J.

Dr. A. M. Brown of Birmingham, Ala., precipitated a lively discussion by advocating the use of criminals under death sentence as subjects for surgical experimentation.

WOMEN SEND GREETINGS

A delegation representing the National Association of Colored Women, now in session at the Concord Baptist