

DR. RALPH A. HURD

1892 - 1963

Dr. Ralph A. Hurd, aged 71 years, died suddenly at his home, 210 East 68th Street, New York City, on October 20, 1963. He had his pre-medical education in the local schools at Stony Point, New York, where he was born on May 12, 1892, and at Cornell University. In 1915 he was graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University. After having completed his postgraduate training in general surgery and gynecology at Roosevelt Hospital and in obstetrics at the Manhattan Maternity Hospital, he went to France in 1917 as a medical officer with the Roosevelt Hospital unit. After having completed his military duties he opened an office in New York City in 1920 for the practice of obstetrics and gynecology. In the same year he was appointed to the Staff of the Woman's Hospital where he was promoted to the rank of Attending Surgeon in 1936 and to that of Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynecology in 1955. At the time of his death he had served continuously as a member of the Staff of the Woman's Hospital for 43 years. He was also a consultant at the New York Orthopedic Hospital and at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Suffern, N. Y.

During his professional career he had held faculty appointments at the College of Physicians and Surgeons. He was a member of the New York County and New York State Medical Societies, the American Medical Association, the Hospital Graduates Club, a member and past president of the Roosevelt Hospital Alumni Association and a fellow and past president of the New York Obstetrical Society. He was a Life Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine and of the American College of Surgeons and a Diplomate of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

During Doctor Hurd's long association with the Staff of the Woman's Hospital he proved himself to be a wise and skilful obstetrician and gynecologist and a superb teacher. His approach to obstetrics was always conservative and his work as a gynecologist was made outstanding by his sound judgment and manual dexterity. Invariably he found time to help the hospital residents and younger members of the Staff to master the techniques which he had perfected and adopted.

Through his kind and generous personal attitudes he commanded the respect, admiration and devotion of a host of patients and friends. His absorbing interests outside of the practice of medicine were classical literature and horse racing. He was an avid reader not only of American and English literature but also that of France, and of Russia in translation. To turf writers he was known as an authority on thoroughbred horse racing.

He is survived by his wife, the former Josephine Weaver, two daughters, Mrs. E. W. Mead and Mrs. J. L. Shurtleff, and five grandchildren.

Through the death of Doctor Hurd the medical profession, the Staff of the Woman's Hospital, this Society and the community have lost one of the most cultured, skilful and beloved physicians.

Albert H. Aldridge, M.D.