

Dr. W. C. Davison — Oslerian Scholar



OSLERIAN SCHOLAR—Dr. W.C. Davison, pictured in his official portrait which hangs in the amphitheater, participated in a meeting on Sir William Osler's ideas on medical education recently in Texas. Dr. Davison, first dean of the Duke School of Medicine, studied under Osler as a Rhodes scholar from 1913 to 1916. (staff photo)

Golden Apple

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Mengel of the Department of Medicine in 1964, Dr. Duncan C. Heatherington of the Department of Anatomy in 1965, Dr. Talmadge L. Peele of the Department of Anatomy in 1966, Dr. Suydam Osterhout of the Department of Microbiology-Immunology in 1967, Dr. Jacinto J. Vasquez of the Department of Pathology in 1968, and Dr. William D. Bradford of the Department of Pathology in 1969.

House officer honorees from 1963 through 1968 all came from the Department of Medicine. They were Drs. Fred W. Schoonmaker, James J. Morris, Brunildo Herrero, Earl Metz, Robert Schwartzman, and John Douglas. Winner in 1969 was Raymond F. Ford of the Department of Pediatrics.

The Davison Society plans to erect a plaque containing all Golden Apple award recipients' names in the near future.

Dr. Wilburt C. Davison, dean emeritus of the School of Medicine, has had a slice of life equaled by few.

In 1926, at the relatively young age of 24, Dr. Davison, then a pediatrician at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, was appointed dean of medicine at a new school being carved from the limestone and forest of North Carolina.

In the years that immediately followed, Dr. Davison recruited some of the finest young minds in medicine to join him as faculty.

In the years that followed that, he saw the Duke University Medical Center rise to a level of prominence and prestige that placed it among the country's leading medical education, research and health-care facilities.

And throughout his deanship, from 1926-60, and since, he has watched more than 2,500 Duke medical graduates go off to assume important positions, many of them educational leadership roles, in their professional fields.

But one of the highest in the highpoints of Dr. Davison's life took place before he had ever heard of Durham, N.C.

This event, which spanned three years and as much as anything else helped shape his philosophy of the practice of medicine, was his opportunity to study under the late Sir William Osler, sometimes called history's greatest medical humanitarian.

His work with Osler took place between 1913 and 1916, when he studied at Oxford University under a Rhodes Scholarship.

This rare opportunity in the lives of

Dr. Davison and two other physicians was celebrated in late April in Galveston, Tex., during a symposium called "Humanism In Medicine" as portrayed by the life of Dr. Osler.

Dr. Davison and the other two men—Dr. Emile F. Holman, professor emeritus of surgery at Stanford, and Dr. Wilder G. Penfield, honorary consultant at the Montreal, Canada, Neurological Institute and Hospital—are the only three living students of Osler, who lived from 1849 to 1919.

In addition to being guests of honor at the April 21-22 symposium, each of the men presented a paper. Dr. Davison's was called "Osler's Opposition to the Present 'Full-Time' Teaching."

In interviews with Houston newspapers, Dr. Davison blamed technically oriented teachers for having de-emphasized humanism throughout the health-care field.

"Medical schools across the nation are filled with all kinds of scientific types who don't have a lot of personal interest in students or patients as individuals," Dr. Davison said.

"That's wrong," he declared. "You ought to know both your students and your patients by their first names.

"All fields need more humanistic people, but it is particularly so in medicine," Dr. Davison said. "It just doesn't take that much more time to be nice to people, to treat patients or students with compassion."

Program chairman for the symposium was Dr. John P. McGovern of Houston, former president of the Duke Medical Alumni Association.

NEW GRADUATE NURSE OFFICERS—

Newly installed officers of the Duke Graduate Nurse Organization include, from left to right, Emma Kiser, staff nurse on Matas, elected secretary; Kathy Stevenson, staff nurse on Third East, vice-president; and Nettie Hollis, head nurse on Howland, president. (staff photo)

