

## In Memoriam

JAMES B. MURPHY  
1884-1950

In August, 1950, a few days after his 66th birthday, a cerebral hemorrhage caused the death of Doctor Murphy at Bar Harbor, on Mt. Desert Island, Maine.

For over 40 years Doctor Murphy had devoted himself to research on cancer from a basic biological point of view. His earlier studies on the role of the lymphocyte in immunity to transplantable cancer and his later work on the existence of growth-stimulating and growth-retarding substances in normal tissues were major contributions in his chosen field.

He combined unusual executive and administrative ability with his capacity for research. As a member of boards and committees he never sought official recognition or office, but he was always clear, concise, and con-

structive in his contributions. Even when not opposed to a proposed plan, his opinions and criticisms had the clean-cut definiteness of a well performed surgical operation.

Because he was uncompromising in his honesty and idealism, he often gave the appearance of lacking understanding. This was far from being the actual case.

He considered the search for truth an obligation of almost religious significance. He could not, therefore, tolerate those who considered it of lesser worth. Those who were privileged to know and understand him have been permanently affected by his attitude, and continue to owe him a very great and real debt.

C. C. LITTLE, M.D

FRANCIS CARTER WOOD  
1869-1951

Dr. Francis Carter Wood, international authority on cancer and pioneer radiotherapist, died January 5, 1951, of coronary thrombosis at the age of 81. Dr. Wood by training and experience had a scope of knowledge and a capacity for achievement in the cancer field that would be difficult to attain in this age of specialization. Trained as a surgeon, he recognized with characteristic foresight the importance of understanding pathology, and specialized in tissue diagnosis. He organized the pathology laboratory at St. Luke's Hospital and was its director from 1910 to 1948. As a pathologist he was particularly interested in the effects of radiation on tissues and in 1921 established the radiotherapeutic department of St. Luke's Hospital and remained director until 1948, and a consultant until shortly before his death.

When Columbia University received a bequest of \$2,500,000 from George Crocker to be used for research into the causes and treatment of cancer, Dr. Wood organized the Crocker Institute for Cancer Research in 1912 and became its director. Among medical men he was a pioneer in establishing the importance of animal experimentation in the cancer field. The combined knowledge and experience from surgery, radiotherapy, and experimental pathology made him an unequalled authority on cancer but humble always when confronted by the human tragedy of an incurable cancer patient. His wise counsel and discriminating judgment as to when or why to operate, apply radiation therapy, or palliation was given freely to rich and poor alike and not infrequently passed on by younger men who learned much from their contacts with him. He was always skeptical of reported cancer "cures" and merciless in his denunciation of charlatans—remarking "there are many cures for cancer; the problem is to keep the patient alive."

Dr. Wood was born in Columbus, Ohio, December

30, 1869, son of a business man, grandson of a Columbus physician, and great-grandson of Dr. Francis Boake Carter, the founder of Starling Medical College, now part of Ohio State University. He was graduated from Ohio State University in 1891, and from College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, in 1894. He studied in Berlin and Vienna until 1896, when he joined the faculty of clinical pathology of Columbia University, serving as director from 1906 to 1912.

During his distinguished career, Dr. Wood was accorded many honors. He received honorary Doctor of Science degrees from Tufts College and from Ohio State University, the French Legion d'honneur, and the Belgian Order of the Crown. He was President of the International Cancer Congress at Atlantic City in 1939, and Vice-President of the International Union contra le cancer, President of the Radiological Society of North America and of the American Association for Cancer Research. He was a friend and admirer of Mme. Curie and after the First World War played an important part in raising funds to buy radium for her.

Many readers of *Cancer Research* remember him as Editor of the *American Journal of Cancer* from 1930 to 1941, and will recall especially the piquant comments frequently appended to his abstracts. At the time of his death he was compiling an atlas on tumor pathology. From a vast number of photomicrographs taken through the years, he had selected 1,500 to illustrate the myriad forms of malignant disease, including one from his own face. He was justly proud of his equipment and skill in microphotography.

The inspiration emanating from the personality of a great man will be missed by many friends and associates here and abroad.

WILHELMINA F. DUNNING

# Cancer Research

The Journal of Cancer Research (1916–1930) | The American Journal of Cancer (1931–1940)

## Francis Carter Wood: 1869–1951

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