COVER LEGEND

James Marion Sims (1813-1883), a South Carolina-born surgeon, has a secure place in medical history for the first successful operation for vesicovaginal fistula in 1852. He was the founder of the New York Woman's Hospital (1854) and is the acknowledged “Father” of the New York Cancer Hospital, established in 1884. Sims’ efforts to provide treatment for cancer victims received the endorsement of prominent New York City citizens, who raised funds for the construction of the first American hospital to regularly admit cancer patients.

In 1899 the New York Cancer Hospital became the General Memorial Hospital for the Treatment of Cancer and Allied Diseases. Research was initiated at the Memorial Hospital in 1902 through a bequest of $100,000, the Collis P. Huntington Fund for Cancer Research, established in conjunction with the Loomis Laboratory for Research in Experimental Pathology at the Cornell University Medical College. James Ewing (1856-1943) was appointed first Director of Research and Director of the Memorial Hospital in 1931. The Sloan Kettering Research Institute was established at a new site provided for the Memorial Hospital in 1939. Ewing was succeeded by Cornelius Packard Rhoads (1898-1959) as second Director of the Memorial Hospital and its research affiliate.

One of the largest and important cancer centers of the world, the Memorial Center for the Treatment of Cancer and Allied Diseases, as it became known in 1950, has a long tradition of service toward the prevention and treatment of cancer. Its laboratories have pioneered in the development of cancer therapeutic agents, as well as in basic laboratory studies. Reference should be made to the brochure by Bob Considine, “That Many May Live: Memorial Center’s 75 Year Fight Against Cancer,” published by the Memorial Center for Cancer and Allied Diseases, New York, N.Y., 61 pp, 1959.

Lower right: portrait of James Marion Sims, courtesy of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia; upper left: a photograph of the original Memorial Hospital; center: an aerial illustration of the present Memorial Cancer Center in upper Manhattan, showing the Memorial Hospital with its Strang Cancer Prevention Clinic, the Tower Outpatient Building, the Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research, and the James Ewing Hospital of the City of New York. We are indebted to Dr. Frank L. Horsfall, Jr., President and third Director of the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, for furnishing the memorial illustrations.