

HERBERT MELVILLE LITTLE, B.A., M.D.C.M., F.A.C.S.,
F.R.C.S.(Can.), F.C.O.G.
(1877-1934)

BY DR. W. P. TEW, LONDON, ONTARIO

OBSTETRICS and Gynecology in this country and elsewhere suffered a serious loss in the passing of Professor Herbert Melville Little. His sudden death in London, Canada, on October 11, 1934 at the age of fifty-seven years, was a shock to his many friends. Professor Little was a son of one of London's oldest and most distinguished families. He received his early education in the London Public Schools and Collegiate. He received his B.A. degree from the University of Toronto in 1897. He registered in the Faculty of Medicine, McGill University, in the Autumn of 1897 and graduated M.D.C.M. in 1901. He did his post-graduate work at Johns Hopkins from 1901 to 1905 and at the Montreal Maternity Hospital from 1905 to 1907. He studied at the Tübingen Frauenklinik at Munich, Vienna and Paris in 1901 and 1908.

Professor Little's post-graduate work was therefore well planned and admirably fitted him for his outstanding future in obstetrics and gynecology. He then returned to Montreal equipped for his life's work. He was made Assistant Professor of Obstetrics at McGill in 1913 and Assistant Gynecologist at the Montreal General Hospital in the same year. Later he became Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Montreal General Hospital.

Professor Little held memberships and distinctive positions in several of the medical societies. He was a member of the Montreal Medical Chirurgical Society. He was a valued member of the Editorial Board of the Canadian Medical Association. He was first vice president of the American Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and Abdominal Surgeons. He was a member of the American Gynecological Association. He was Foundation Fellow of the British College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. He was also a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada and a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

A summary of his contributions to medical literature is as follows:

1. Situs Transversus and Atresia of the Pylorus, 1905.
2. Louise Bourgeois and Some Others, 1910.
3. The Bacteriology of the Puerperal Uterus, 1905.
4. Version and Extraction as a Means of Delivery, 1913.

5. A Simple Method of Obtaining Uterine Lochia for Bacteriological Examination, 1904.
6. Bacillus Aerogenes Capsulatus in Puerperal Infection, 1905.
7. On the Treatment of Puerperal Convulsions, 1909.
8. On Obstetric Nursing, 1909.
9. On Pelvimetry and Abdominal Palpation, 1910.
10. On the Induction of Labour and Manual Dilatation of Cervix by Harris's Method, 1910.
11. On Death and Disability Resulting from Childbirth, 1911.
12. Puerperal Infection—Certain Clinical Considerations, 1907.
13. The Least Common Multiple in Obstetrics, 1921.
14. An address on Obstetrics During the Past Twenty-five Years, 1924.
15. Curtis' Gynecology—chapters on Birth Trauma and Perineal Damage.

Professor Little was a member of the Canadian Club, University Club and Mount Royal Club of Montreal.

His colleague and friend, Dr. Campbell Howard, has said that he had the spirit of a boy which never left him. His friendships crossed all social, academic and racial boundaries. He was at home with all groups. His unflinching generosity constantly made new friends for him. He was exceedingly generous with his time, with his means and with his influence. For such reasons as these, Christ Church Cathedral in Montreal was crowded to the very doors, when people from all walks of life gathered to pay their last tribute to one whom they loved and who had so suddenly been taken away. May his spirit live on:

"What I spent I had, what I saved I lost, what I gave I have."

IN MEMORIAM

HERBERT M. LITTLE
1877—1934

DOCTOR HERBERT M. LITTLE, of Montreal, died suddenly on October 11, 1934, at the age of 57 years. Born in London, Ontario, in 1877, he took Arts at Toronto University and studied Medicine at McGill University, Montreal, graduating in 1901. Following graduation, studies were made in Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, the Montreal Hospitals, Tubingen, Munich, Vienna, and Paris at various times between 1901 and 1908.

Early after coming to McGill as an undergraduate in 1897, he made a place for himself in Montreal. Interested in every branch of student activities and especially in the McGill Cricket Club as "Tiny Little," he became a most popular figure on the campus and a general favorite in university circles.

Following upon graduation, he joined the staff of the late Whitridge Williams, of Baltimore, serving successively as Interne, Assistant Resident, and Resident. Later he was recalled to assume the superintendency of the Montreal Maternity Hospital. It was in his continuous association with this hospital that he found scope for the exercise of his very great talents and gave so much to the shaping and development of this great institution.

In the faculty of Medicine of McGill University he became early an Assistant Professor and finally in 1930 a full professor. In 1913 he was elected an Assistant Gynaecologist to the Montreal General Hospital; he was later to become the Gynaecologist-in-Chief and Secretary of the Medical Board of that Institution.

Honored alike at home and abroad he received many professional honors: a fellow of the American Gynaecological Society and its Vice-President; a foundation fellow of the American College of Surgeons; a fellow of the British Society of Obstetrics and Gynaecology; Vice-President of the American Association of Obstetricians, Gynaecologists and Abdominal Surgeons; a member of the Montreal-Medico-Chirurgical Society and a prominent member of the Canadian Medical Association. A much respected colleague and valued friend.

Little made important contributions to the medical literature of his day. As a member of the Editorial Board of the *Canadian Medical Journal*, he gave freely of his wide experience and sound judgment.

In the World War, he served with distinction as a member of No. 111 Canadian General Hospital (McGill Unit) at Boulogne.

Herbert Little established an enviable reputation for himself by his sound bedside teaching, operative ability and clinical judgment. He will long be remembered by both student and patient alike. The friends of his youth were the friends of his later life and friendship with him was “not a habit, it was a gift.” He was generous with his time, with his means and with his influence to everyone whom these things might help.

John R. Fraser.

HERBERT MELVILLE LITTLE, B.A., M.D., C.M., F.A.C.S.

Born in London, Canada, December 11, 1877, son of the late Col. J. W. Little. Elected to Society, 1913. Vice-president, 1924. Active Fellow.

Educated in the Ontario public schools, Toronto and McGill Universities. B.A., Toronto University, 1897; honors in political science, M.D.C.M. McGill University, department of medicine, 1901.

From June, 1901, until October, 1905, Johns Hopkins Hospital; resident obstetrician, 1904, 1905. Several months as volunteer in the service of Professor Doderlein, Tübingen. Opened new Montreal Maternity as Superintendent, 1905–1909. Assistant gynecologist at Montreal General Hospital, 1907; gynecologist, 1925. Lecturer, McGill University, 1909. Assistant Professor, 1912. Senior professor of obstetrics and gynecology, 1929.

Suggested the first University Hospital (McGill) Unit in 1914. Active war service, C.A.M.C. Captain, 1915–1918. F.R.C.S. Canadian (original), 1929. F.A.C.S. (original), 1913. F.A.A.O.G. and A.S., 1928.

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