

**IN MEMORIAM**

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**HARRY STURGEON CROSSEN**  
1869-1951

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**O**N MARCH 10, 1951, death came to Harry Sturgeon Crossen, an inspiring teacher and eminent gynecologist, following a lingering illness. Dr. Crossen was born Feb. 2, 1869, in Centerville, Iowa, the only son of James and Sarah Sturgeon Crossen, both of whom died in his early childhood. He was reared by his mother's sister and her husband, R. S. Morris of Siloam Springs, Ark. He attended the academy there and prepared for medical school. He was graduated from the Washington University School of Medicine in 1892. Dr. Crossen interned in and was later assistant superintendent of St. Louis City Hospital. From 1895 to 1899 he was superintendent and surgeon-in-charge of St. Louis Female Hospital.

In 1899 he began the private practice of obstetrics and gynecology. He was appointed instructor in Gynecology at Washington University School of Medicine in 1901. He was Professor of Clinical Gynecology from 1921 to 1935 and at that time became Professor Emeritus. After his return from World War I he discontinued obstetrics, the only St. Louisian to limit his practice to gynecology. For many years he served as gynecologist-in-chief on the staffs of Barnes and St. Luke's Hospitals. He had also been consulting gynecologist on the staffs of the following hospitals: Bethesda, Deaconess, DePaul, Missouri Baptist, Mullanphy, and St. Louis Maternity. An award for Meritorious Service to St. Louis City Hospital was awarded to him posthumously in April, 1951.

Dr. Crossen was a member of the American Gynecological Society, American Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and Abdominal Surgeons, and numerous other regional and local medical societies. He was a Fellow of both the American Medical Association and the American College of Surgeons.

Dr. Crossen was an indefatigable worker and his contributions to medical literature are legion. He was the author of the following books: *Diseases of Women*, 1907; *Operative Gynecology*, 1915; *Gynecology for Nurses*, 1927; *Synopsis of Gynecology*, 1931; and *Foreign Bodies Left in the Abdomen*, 1940.

During World War I, Dr. Crossen served as Captain and later as Major in the Medical Corps of the United States Army, in France, from 1917 to 1919.

He was the father of three sons and two daughters. His wife, Mary Frances Wright Crossen, died in 1935 and his eldest son in 1949.

The scientific attainments of Dr. Crossen have been enumerated and they need not be extolled for the test of time has long since given them a pre-eminent place in the annals of medicine. Although his profession was both his vocation and avocation, he had many sterling attributes which it is difficult to epitomize. Dr. Crossen was formal, unobtrusive, modest—a serious-minded man who had

the burden of a large and devoted clientele in addition to his teaching duties, clinical investigation, and writing. He had little time for social activities and frivolity, if indeed he had such inclination. He called all physicians "Doctor," including his contemporaries and even his son. He was a devout Christian and devoted family man, who practiced his religion daily—a temperate, soft-spoken man, whose speech was always precise and proper, who was ever ready to praise the deserving, eager to assist those in need, never derogatory. In addition, he was a disciplinarian who demanded industry, punctuality, and cooperation, yet was approachable to his subordinates who knew they would get a sympathetic hearing and a fair disposition of their problems. He was constructively critical, but never harsh. A more pious man I have never known.

In summation, it may be said that those of us who were fortunate enough to be under his tutelage will remember him not only for his industry, ability to teach, technical skill, and devotion to his patients, but also as a paragon of virtue. To the medical profession and the public his scientific achievements stand as a monument to his greatness.

*John E. Hobbs.*



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## HARRY STURGEON CROSSEN, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Born in Appanoose County, Iowa, February 2, 1869. Son of James H. and Sarah A. (Sturgeon) Crossen. Elected to Society, 1909. Active Fellow.

Attended school in Appanoose County, Iowa; in Lincoln, Neb., and in Siloam Springs, Ark. Graduated from medical department of Washington University, St. Louis, in 1892.

Spent three years in St. Louis City Hospital, on the resident staff. In 1895 was appointed superintendent and surgeon-in-charge of the St. Louis Female Hospital (City Hospital for Women), where he remained for four years. Entered private practice in 1899, and in the same year began work in the gynecological department of Washington University Medical School. At present time, professor of clinical gynecology, Washington University Medical School, and gynecologist to Barnes Hospital, St. Luke's Hospital and St. Louis Maternity Hospital.

Member of St. Louis Medical Society, Medical Society of City Hospital, Missouri State Medical Association, Southwest Medical Association, American Medical Association. Ex-president of St. Louis Obstetrical and Gynecological Society.

Author of text-books—*Diseases of Women* (1907), and *Operative Gynecology* (1915), and *Gynecology for Nurses* (1927).

Married Miss Mary Frances Wright, of Oberlin, Ohio, March 28, 1895.

University Club Building, St. Louis, Mo.



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